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37083 Göttingen (DE). RAUHUT, Reinhard [DE/DE];  
Merkelstrasse 16, 37085 Göttingen (DE).

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(74) Agents: WEICKMANN, Franz, Albert et al.; Weickmann & Weickmann, Postfach 860 820, 81635 München (DE).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTEN E.V. [DE/DE]; Hofgartenstrasse 8, 80539 München (DE).

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(54) Title: MICRORNA MOLECULES

(57) Abstract: In *Caenorhabditis elegans*, lin-4 and let-7 encode 22- and 21 -nucleotide RNAs, respectively, that function as key regulators of developmental timing. Because the appearance of these short RNAs is regulated during development, they are also referred to as "small temporal RNAs" (stRNAs). We show that many more 21- and 22-nt expressed RNAs, termed microRNAs (miRNAs), exist in invertebrates and vertebrates, and that some of these novel RNAs, similar to let-7 stRNA, are also highly conserved. This suggests that sequence-specific post-transcriptional regulatory mechanisms mediated by small RNAs are more general than previously appreciated.

**MicroRNA molecules****Description**

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The present invention relates to novel small expressed (micro)RNA molecules associated with physiological regulatory mechanisms, particularly in developmental control.

10 In *Caenorhabditis elegans*, *lin-4* and *let-7* encode 22- and 21-nucleotide RNAs, respectively (1, 2), that function as key regulators of developmental timing (3-5). Because the appearance of these short RNAs is regulated during development, they are also referred to as "microRNAs" (miRNAs) or small temporal RNAs (stRNAs) (6). *lin-4* and *let-21* are the only known 15 miRNAs to date.

20 Two distinct pathways exist in animals and plants in which 21- to 23-nucleotide RNAs function as post-transcriptional regulators of gene expression. Small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) act as mediators of sequence-specific mRNA degradation in RNA interference (RNAi) (7-11) whereas 25 miRNAs regulate developmental timing by mediating sequence-specific repression of mRNA translation (3-5). siRNAs and miRNAs are excised from double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) precursors by Dicer (12, 13, 29), a multidomain RNase III protein, thus producing RNA species of similar size. However, siRNAs are believed to be double-stranded (8, 11, 12), while miRNAs are single-stranded (6).

30 We show that many more short, particularly 21- and 22-nt expressed RNAs, termed microRNAs (miRNAs), exist in invertebrates and vertebrates, and that some of these novel RNAs, similar to *let-7* RNA (6), are also highly conserved. This suggests that sequence-specific post-transcriptional

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regulatory mechanisms mediated by small RNAs are more general than previously appreciated.

The present invention relates to an isolated nucleic acid molecule  
5 comprising:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence as shown in Table 1, Table 2, Table 3 or Table 4
- 10 (b) a nucleotide sequence which is the complement of (a),
- (c) a nucleotide sequence which has an identity of at least 80%, preferably of at least 90% and more preferably of at least 99%, to a sequence of (a) or (b) and/or
- 15 (d) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a sequence of (a), (b) and/or (c).

In a preferred embodiment the invention relates to miRNA molecules and analogs thereof, to miRNA precursor molecules and to DNA molecules  
20 encoding miRNA or miRNA precursor molecules.

Preferably the identity of sequence (c) to a sequence of (a) or (b) is at least 90%, more preferably at least 95%. The determination of identity (percent) may be carried out as follows:

25  $I = n : L$

wherein I is the identity in percent, n is the number of identical nucleotides between a given sequence and a comparative sequence as shown in Table  
30 1, Table 2, Table 3 or Table 4 and L is the length of the comparative sequence. It should be noted that the nucleotides A, C, G and U as depicted in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 may denote ribonucleotides,

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deoxyribonucleotides and/or other nucleotide analogs, e.g. synthetic non-naturally occurring nucleotide analogs. Further nucleobases may be substituted by corresponding nucleobases capable of forming analogous H-bonds to a complementary nucleic acid sequence, e.g. U may be 5 substituted by T.

Further, the invention encompasses nucleotide sequences which hybridize under stringent conditions with the nucleotide sequence as shown in Table 1, Table 2, Table 3 or Table 4, a complementary sequence thereof or a 10 highly identical sequence. Stringent hybridization conditions comprise washing for 1 h in 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS at 45°C, preferably at 48°C and more preferably at 50°C, particularly for 1 h in 0.2 x SSC and 0.1% SDS.

The isolated nucleic acid molecules of the invention preferably have a 15 length of from 18 to 100 nucleotides, and more preferably from 18 to 80 nucleotides. It should be noted that mature miRNAs usually have a length of 19-24 nucleotides, particularly 21, 22 or 23 nucleotides. The miRNAs, however, may be also provided as a precursor which usually has a length 20 of 50-90 nucleotides, particularly 60-80 nucleotides. It should be noted that the precursor may be produced by processing of a primary transcript which may have a length of >100 nucleotides.

The nucleic acid molecules may be present in single-stranded or double-stranded form. The miRNA as such is usually a single-stranded molecule, 25 while the mi-precursor is usually an at least partially self-complementary molecule capable of forming double-stranded portions, e.g. stem- and loop-structures. DNA molecules encoding the miRNA and miRNA precursor molecules. The nucleic acids may be selected from RNA, DNA or nucleic acid analog molecules, such as sugar- or backbone-modified ribonucleotides or deoxyribonucleotides. It should be noted, however, that other 30 nucleic analogs, such as peptide nucleic acids (PNA) or locked nucleic acids (LNA), are also suitable.

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In an embodiment of the invention the nucleic acid molecule is an RNA- or DNA molecule, which contains at least one modified nucleotide analog, i.e. a naturally occurring ribonucleotide or deoxyribonucleotide is substituted by a non-naturally occurring nucleotide. The modified nucleotide analog 5 may be located for example at the 5'-end and/or the 3'-end of the nucleic acid molecule.

Preferred nucleotide analogs are selected from sugar- or backbone-modified ribonucleotides. It should be noted, however, that also nucleobase-modified ribonucleotides, i.e. ribonucleotides, containing a non-naturally occurring nucleobase instead of a naturally occurring nucleobase such as uridines or cytidines modified at the 5-position, e.g. 5-(2-amino)propyl uridine, 5-bromo uridine; adenosines and guanosines modified at the 8-position, e.g. 8-bromo guanosine; deaza nucleotides, e.g. 7-deaza-15 adenosine; O- and N-alkylated nucleotides, e.g. N6-methyl adenosine are suitable. In preferred sugar-modified ribonucleotides the 2'-OH-group is replaced by a group selected from H, OR, R, halo, SH, SR, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NR<sub>2</sub> or CN, wherein R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl and halo is F, Cl, Br or I. In preferred backbone-modified ribonucleotides the phosphoester group 20 connecting to adjacent ribonucleotides is replaced by a modified group, e.g. of phosphothioate group. It should be noted that the above modifications may be combined.

The nucleic acid molecules of the invention may be obtained by chemical 25 synthesis methods or by recombinant methods, e.g. by enzymatic transcription from synthetic DNA-templates or from DNA-plasmids isolated from recombinant organisms. Typically phage RNA-polymerases are used for transcription, such as T7, T3 or SP6 RNA-polymerases.

30 The invention also relates to a recombinant expression vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid operatively linked to an expression control sequence, wherein expression, i.e. transcription and optionally further

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processing results in a miRNA-molecule or miRNA precursor molecule as described above. The vector is preferably a DNA-vector, e.g. a viral vector or a plasmid, particularly an expression vector suitable for nucleic acid expression in eukaryotic, more particularly mammalian cells. The recombinant nucleic acid contained in said vector may be a sequence which results in the transcription of the miRNA-molecule as such, a precursor or a primary transcript thereof, which may be further processed to give the miRNA-molecule.

Further, the invention relates to diagnostic or therapeutic applications of the claimed nucleic acid molecules. For example, miRNAs may be detected in biological samples, e.g. in tissue sections, in order to determine and classify certain cell types or tissue types or miRNA-associated pathogenic disorders which are characterized by differential expression of miRNA-molecules or miRNA-molecule patterns. Further, the developmental stage of cells may be classified by determining temporarily expressed miRNA-molecules.

Further, the claimed nucleic acid molecules are suitable for therapeutic applications. For example, the nucleic acid molecules may be used as modulators or targets of developmental processes or disorders associated with developmental dysfunctions, such as cancer. For example, miR-15 and miR-16 probably function as tumor-suppressors and thus expression or delivery of these RNAs or analogs or precursors thereof to tumor cells may provide therapeutic efficacy, particularly against leukemias, such as B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (B-CLL). Further, miR-10 is a possible regulator of the translation of Hox Genes, particularly Hox 3 and Hox 4 (or Scr and Dfd in *Drosophila*).

In general, the claimed nucleic acid molecules may be used as a modulator of the expression of genes which are at least partially complementary to said nucleic acid. Further, miRNA molecules may act as target for

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therapeutic screening procedures, e.g. inhibition or activation of miRNA molecules might modulate a cellular differentiation process, e.g. apoptosis.

Furthermore, existing miRNA molecules may be used as starting materials for the manufacture of sequence-modified miRNA molecules, in order to modify the target-specificity thereof, e.g. an oncogene, a multidrug-resistance gene or another therapeutic target gene. The novel engineered miRNA molecules preferably have an identity of at least 80% to the starting miRNA, e.g. as depicted in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. Further, miRNA molecules can be modified, in order that they are symmetrically processed and then generated as double-stranded siRNAs which are again directed against therapeutically relevant targets.

Furthermore, miRNA molecules may be used for tissue reprogramming procedures, e.g. a differentiated cell line might be transformed by expression of miRNA molecules into a different cell type or a stem cell.

For diagnostic or therapeutic applications, the claimed RNA molecules are preferably provided as a pharmaceutical composition. This pharmaceutical composition comprises as an active agent at least one nucleic acid molecule as described above and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The administration of the pharmaceutical composition may be carried out by known methods, wherein a nucleic acid is introduced into a desired target cell in vitro or in vivo.

Commonly used gene transfer techniques include calcium phosphate, DEAE-dextran, electroporation and microinjection and viral methods [30, 31, 32, 33, 34]. A recent addition to this arsenal of techniques for the introduction of DNA into cells is the use of cationic liposomes [35].

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Commercially available cationic lipid formulations are e.g. Tfx 50 (Promega) or Lipofectamin 2000 (Life Technologies).

The composition may be in form of a solution, e.g. an injectable solution, 5 a cream, ointment, tablet, suspension or the like. The composition may be administered in any suitable way, e.g. by injection, by oral, topical, nasal, rectal application etc. The carrier may be any suitable pharmaceutical carrier. Preferably, a carrier is used, which is capable of increasing the efficacy of the RNA molecules to enter the target-cells. Suitable examples 10 of such carriers are liposomes, particularly cationic liposomes.

Further, the invention relates to a method of identifying novel microRNA-molecules and precursors thereof, in eukaryotes, particularly in vertebrates and more particularly in mammals, such as humans or mice. This method 15 comprises: ligating 5'- and 3'-adapter-molecules to the end of a size-fractionated RNA-population, reverse transcribing said adapter-ligated RNA-population, and characterizing said reverse transcribed RNA-molecules, e.g. by amplification, concatamerization, cloning and sequencing.

20 A method as described above already has been described in (8), however, for the identification of siRNA molecules. Surprisingly, it was found now that the method is also suitable for identifying the miRNA molecules or precursors thereof as claimed in the present application.

25 Further, it should be noted that as 3'-adaptor for derivatization of the 3'-OH group not only 4-hydroxymethylbenzyl but other types of derivatization groups, such as alkyl, alkyl amino, ethylene glycol or 3'-deoxy groups are suitable.

30 Further, the invention shall be explained in more detail by the following Figures and Examples:

**Figure Legends**

Fig. 1A. Expression of *D. melanogaster* miRNAs. Northern blots of total RNA isolated from staged populations of *D. melanogaster* were probed for the indicated miRNAs. The position of 76-nt val-tRNA is also indicated on the blots. 5S rRNA serves as loading control. E, embryo; L, larval stage; P, pupae; A, adult; S2, Schneider-2 cells. It should be pointed out, that S2 cells are polyclonal, derived from an unknown subset of embryonic tissues, and may have also lost some features of their tissue of origin while maintained in culture. miR-3 to miR-6 RNAs were not detectable in S2 cells (data not shown). miR-14 was not detected by Northern blotting and may be very weakly expressed, which is consistent with its cloning frequency. Similar miRNA sequences are difficult to distinguish by Northern blotting because of potential cross-hybridization of probes.

Fig. 1B. Expression of vertebrate miRNAs. Northern blots of total RNA isolated from HeLa cells, mouse kidneys, adult zebrafish, frog ovaries, and S2 cells were probed for the indicated miRNAs. The position of 76-nt val-tRNA is also indicated on the blots. 5S rRNA from the preparations of total RNA from the indicated species is also shown. The gels used for probing of miR-18, miR-19a, miR-30, and miR-31 were not run as far as the other gels (see tRNA marker position). miR-32 and miR-33 were not detected by Northern blotting, which is consistent with their low cloning frequency. Oligodeoxynucleotides used as Northern probes were:

let-7a, 5' TACTATACAACCTACTACCTCAATTTGCC (SEQ ID NO:1);  
let-7d, 5' ACTATGCAACCTACTACCTCT (SEQ ID NO:2);  
let-7e, 5' ACTATACAACCTCCTACCTCA (SEQ ID NO:3);  
*D. melanogaster* val-tRNA, 5' TGGTGTTCCGCCGGGAA (SEQ ID NO:4);  
miR-1, 5' TGGAATGTAAAGAAGTATGGAG (SEQ ID NO:5);  
miR-2b, 5' GCTCCTCAAAGCTGGCTGTGATA (SEQ ID NO:6);  
miR-3, 5' TGAGACACACTTGCCCAGTGA (SEQ ID NO:7);  
miR-4, 5' TCAATGGTTGTCTAGCTTTAT (SEQ ID NO:8);

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miR-5, 5' CATATCACACAGATCGTCCCTT (SEQ ID NO:9);  
miR-6, 5' AAAAAGAACAGCCACTGTGATA (SEQ ID NO:10);  
miR-7, 5' TGGAAAGACTAGTGATTTGTTGT (SEQ ID NO:11);  
miR-8, 5' GACATCTTACCTGACAGTATTA (SEQ ID NO:12);  
5 miR-9, 5' TCATACAGCTAGATAACCAAAGA (SEQ ID NO:13);  
miR-10, 5' ACAAAATTGGATCTACAGGGT (SEQ ID NO:14);  
miR-11, 5' GCAAGAACTCAGACTGTGATG (SEQ ID NO:15);  
miR-12, 5' ACCAGTACCTGATGTAATACTCA (SEQ ID NO:16);  
miR-13a, 5' ACTCGTCAAAATGGCTGTGATA (SEQ ID NO:17);  
10 miR-14, 5' TAGGAGAGAGAAAAAGACTGA (SEQ ID NO:18);  
miR-15, 5' TAGCAGCACATAATGGTTGT (SEQ ID NO:19);  
miR-16, 5' GCCAATATTACGTGCTGCTA (SEQ ID NO:20);  
miR-17, 5' TACAAGTGCCTTCACTGCAGTA (SEQ ID NO:21);  
miR-18, 5' TATCTGCACTAGATGCACCTTA (SEQ ID NO:22);  
15 miR-19a, 5' TCAGTTTGCATAGATTGCACA (SEQ ID NO:23);  
miR-20, 5' TACCTGCACTATAAGCACTTTA (SEQ ID NO:24);  
miR-21, 5' TCAACATCAGTCTGATAAGCTA (SEQ ID NO:25);  
miR-22, 5' ACAGTTCTCAACTGGCAGCTT (SEQ ID NO:26);  
miR-23, 5' GGAAATCCCTGGCAATGTGAT (SEQ ID NO:27);  
20 miR-24, 5' CTGTTCCCTGCTGAACTGAGCCA (SEQ ID NO:28);  
miR-25, 5' TCAGACCGAGACAAGTGCAATG (SEQ ID NO:29);  
miR-26a, 5' AGCCTATCCTGGATTACTTGAA (SEQ ID NO:30);  
miR-27, 5' AGCGGAACCTAGCCACTGTGAA (SEQ ID NO:31);  
miR-28, 5' CTCAATAGACTGTGAGGCTCCTT (SEQ ID NO:32);  
25 miR-29, 5' AACCGATTTCAGATGGTGCTAG (SEQ ID NO:33);  
miR-30, 5' GCTGCAAACATCCGACTGAAAG (SEQ ID NO:34);  
miR-31, 5' CAGCTATGCCAGCATCTTGCCT (SEQ ID NO:35);  
miR-32, 5' GCAACTTAGTAATGTGCAATA (SEQ ID NO:36);  
miR-33, 5' TGCAATGCAACTACAATGCACC (SEQ ID NO:37).

30

Fig. 2. Genomic organization of miRNA gene clusters. The precursor structure is indicated as box and the location of the miRNA within the

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precursor is shown in gray; the chromosomal location is also indicated to the right. (A) *D. melanogaster* miRNA gene clusters. (B) Human miRNA gene clusters. The cluster of let-7a-1 and let-7f-1 is separated by 26500 nt from a copy of let-7d on chromosome 9 and 17. A cluster of let-7a-3 and let-7b, separated by 938 nt on chromosome 22, is not illustrated.

Fig. 3. Predicted precursor structures of *D. melanogaster* miRNAs. RNA secondary structure prediction was performed using mfold version 3.1 [28] and manually refined to accommodate G/U wobble base pairs in the helical segments. The miRNA sequence is underlined. The actual size of the stem-loop structure is not known experimentally and may be slightly shorter or longer than represented. Multicopy miRNAs and their corresponding precursor structures are also shown.

Fig. 4. Predicted precursor structures of human miRNAs. For legend, see Fig. 3.

Fig. 5. Expression of novel mouse miRNAs. Northern blot analysis of novel mouse miRNAs. Total RNA from different mouse tissues was blotted and probed with a 5'-radiolabeled oligodeoxynucleotide complementary to the indicated miRNA. Equal loading of total RNA on the gel was verified by ethidium bromide staining prior to transfer; the band representing tRNAs is shown. The fold-back precursors are indicated with capital L. Mouse brains were dissected into midbrain, mb, cortex, cx, cerebellum, cb. The rest of the brain, rb, was also used. Other tissues were heart, ht, lung, lg, liver, lv, colon, co, small intestine, si, pancreas, pc, spleen, sp, kidney, kd, skeletal muscle, sm, stomach, st, H, human Hela SS3 cells. Oligodeoxynucleotides used as Northern probes were:

miR-1a, CTCCATACTTCTTACATTCCA (SEQ ID NO:38);

miR-30b, GCTGAGTGTAGGATGTTACA (SEQ ID NO:39);

miR-30a-s, GCTTCCAGTCGAGGATGTTACA (SEQ ID NO:40);

miR-99b, CGCAAGGTCGGTTCTACGGGTG (SEQ ID NO:41);

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miR-101, TCAGTTATCACAGTACTGTA (SEQ ID NO:42);  
miR-122a, ACAAACACCATTGTCACACTCCA (SEQ ID NO:43);  
miR-124a, TGGCATTCACCGCGTGCCTTA (SEQ ID NO:44);  
miR-125a, CACAGGTTAAAGGGTCTCAGGGA (SEQ ID NO:45);  
5 miR-125b, TCACAAGTTAGGGTCTCAGGGA (SEQ ID NO:46);  
miR-127, AGCCAAGCTCAGACGGATCCGA (SEQ ID NO:47);  
miR-128, AAAAGAGACCGGTTCACTCTGA (SEQ ID NO:48);  
miR-129, GCAAGCCCAGACCGAAAAAAAG (SEQ ID NO:49);  
miR-130, GCCCTTTAACATTGCACTC (SEQ ID NO:50);  
10 miR-131, ACTTCGGTTATCTAGCTTTA (SEQ ID NO:51);  
miR-132, ACGACCATGGCTGTAGACTGTTA (SEQ ID NO:52);  
miR-143, TGAGCTACAGTGCTTCATCTCA (SEQ ID NO:53).

15 Fig.6. Potential orthologs of lin-4 stRNA. (A) Sequence alignment of *C. elegans* lin-4 stRNA with mouse miR-125a and miR-125b and the *D. melanogaster* miR-125. Differences are highlighted by gray boxes. (B) Northern blot of total RNA isolated from staged populations of *D. melanogaster*, probed for miR-125. E, embryo; L, larval stage; P, pupae; A, 20 adult; S2, Schneider-2 cells.

Fig. 7. Predicted precursor structures of miRNAs, sequence accession numbers and homology information. RNA secondary structure prediction was performed using mfold version 3.1 and manually refined to accommodate G/U wobble base pairs in the helical segments. Dashes were inserted into the secondary structure presentation when asymmetrically bulged nucleotides had to be accommodated. The excised miRNA sequence is underlined. The actual size of the stem-loop structure is not known experimentally and may be slightly shorter or longer than represented. Multicopy miRNAs and their corresponding precursor structures are also shown. In cases where no mouse precursors were yet deposited in the database, the human orthologs are indicated. miRNAs

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which correspond to *D. melanogaster* or human sequences are included. Published *C. elegans* miRNAs [36, 37] are also included in the table. A recent set of new HeLa cell miRNAs is also indicated [46]. If several ESTs were retrieved for one organism in the database, only those with different 5 precursor sequences are listed. miRNA homologs found in other species are indicated. Chromosomal location and sequence accession numbers, and clusters of miRNA genes are indicated. Sequences from cloned miRNAs were searched against mouse and human in GenBank (including trace data), and against *Fugu rubripes* and *Danio rerio* at [www.jgi.doe.gov](http://www.jgi.doe.gov) and 10 [www.sanger.ac.uk](http://www.sanger.ac.uk), respectively.

EXAMPLE 1: MicroRNAs from *D. melanogaster* and human.

We previously developed a directional cloning procedure to isolate siRNAs 15 after processing of long dsRNAs in *Drosophila melanogaster* embryo lysate (8). Briefly, 5' and 3' adapter molecules were ligated to the ends of a size-fractionated RNA population, followed by reverse transcription, PCR amplification, concatamerization, cloning and sequencing. This method, originally intended to isolate siRNAs, led to the simultaneous identification 20 of 14 novel 20- to 23-nt short RNAs which are encoded in the *D. melanogaster* genome and which are expressed in 0 to 2 h embryos (Table 1). The method was adapted to clone RNAs in a similar size range from HeLa cell total RNA (14), which led to the identification of 19 novel human 25 siRNAs (Table 2), thus providing further evidence for the existence of a large class of small RNAs with potential regulatory roles. According to their small size, we refer to these novel RNAs as microRNAs or miRNAs. The miRNAs are abbreviated as miR-1 to miR-33, and the genes encoding miRNAs are named mir-1 to mir-33. Highly homologous miRNAs are classified by adding a lowercase letter, followed by a dash and a number 30 for designating multiple genomic copies of a mir gene.

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The expression and size of the cloned, endogenous short RNAs was also examined by Northern blotting (Fig. 1, Table 1 and 2). Total RNA isolation was performed by acid guanidinium thiocyanate-phenol-chloroform extraction [45]. Northern analysis was performed as described [1], except that the total RNA was resolved on a 15% denaturing polyacrylamide gel, transferred onto Hybond-N + membrane (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech), and the hybridization and wash steps were performed at 50°C. Oligodeoxynucleotides used as Northern probes were 5'-32P-phosphorylated, complementary to the miRNA sequence and 20 to 25 nt in length.

5S rRNA was detected by ethidium staining of polyacrylamide gels prior to transfer. Blots were stripped by boiling in 0.1% aqueous sodium dodecylsulfate/0.1x SSC (15 mM sodium chloride, 1.5 mM sodium citrate, pH 7.0) for 10 min, and were re-probed up to 4 times until the 21-nt signals became too weak for detection. Finally, blots were probed for val-tRNA as size marker.

For analysis of *D. melanogaster* RNAs, total RNA was prepared from different developmental stages, as well as cultured Schneider-2 (S2) cells, which originally derive from 20-24 h *D. melanogaster* embryos [15] (Fig. 1, Table 1). miR-3 to miR-7 are expressed only during embryogenesis and not at later developmental stages. The temporal expression of miR-1, miR-2 and miR-8 to miR-13 was less restricted. These miRNAs were observed at all developmental stages though significant variations in the expression levels were sometimes observed. Interestingly, miR-1, miR-3 to miR-6, and miR-8 to miR-11 were completely absent from cultured Schneider-2 (S2) cells, which were originally derived from 20-24 h *D. melanogaster* embryos [15], while miR-2, miR-7, miR-12, and miR-13 were present in S2 cells, therefore indicating cell type-specific miRNA expression. miR-1, miR-8, and miR-12 expression patterns are similar to those of lin-4 stRNA in *C. elegans*, as their expression is strongly upregulated in larvae and sustained

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to adulthood [16]. miR-9 and miR-11 are present at all stages but are strongly reduced in the adult which may reflect a maternal contribution from germ cells or expression in one sex only.

5 The mir-3 to mir-6 genes are clustered (Fig. 2A), and mir-6 is present as triple repeat with slight variations in the mir-6 precursor sequence but not in the miRNA sequence itself. The expression profiles of miR-3 to miR-6 are highly similar (Table 1), which suggests that a single embryo-specific precursor transcript may give rise to the different miRNAs, or that the  
10 same enhancer regulates miRNA-specific promoters. Several other fly miRNAs are also found in gene clusters (Fig. 2A).

15 The expression of HeLa cell miR-15 to miR-33 was examined by Northern blotting using HeLa cell total RNA, in addition to total RNA prepared from mouse kidneys, adult zebrafish, *Xenopus laevis* ovary, and *D. melanogaster* S2 cells (Fig. 1B, Table 2). miR-15 and miR-16 are encoded in a gene cluster (Fig. 2B) and are detected in mouse kidney, fish, and very weakly in frog ovary, which may result from miRNA expression in somatic ovary tissue rather than oocytes. miR-17 to miR-20 are also clustered (Fig. 2B),  
20 and are expressed in HeLa cells and fish, but undetectable in mouse kidney and frog ovary (Fig. 1, Table 2), and therefore represent a likely case of tissue-specific miRNA expression.

25 The majority of vertebrate and invertebrate miRNAs identified in this study are not related by sequence, but a few exceptions, similar to the highly conserved let-7 RNA [6], do exist. Sequence analysis of the *D. melanogaster* miRNAs revealed four such examples of sequence conservation between invertebrates and vertebrates. miR-1 homologs are encoded in the genomes of *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, and humans, and are  
30 found in cDNAs from zebrafish, mouse, cow and human. The expression of miR-1 was detected by Northern blotting in total RNA from adult zebrafish and *C. elegans*, but not in total RNA from HeLa cells or mouse kidney

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(Table 2 and data not shown). Interestingly, while mir-1 and let-7 are expressed both in adult flies (Fig. 1A) [6] and are both undetected in S2 cells, miR-1 is, in contrast to let-7, undetectable in HeLa cells. This represents another case of tissue-specific expression of a miRNA, and 5 indicates that miRNAs may not only play a regulatory role in developmental timing, but also in tissue specification. miR-7 homologs were found by database searches in mouse and human genomic and expressed sequence tag sequences (ESTs). Two mammalian miR-7 variants are predicted by sequence analysis in mouse and human, and were detected by Northern 10 blotting in HeLa cells and fish, but not in mouse kidney (Table 2). Similarly, we identified mouse and human miR-9 and miR-10 homologs by database searches but only detected mir-10 expression in mouse kidney.

The identification of evolutionary related miRNAs, which have already 15 acquired multiple sequence mutations, was not possible by standard bioinformatic searches. Direct comparison of the *D. melanogaster* miRNAs with the human miRNAs identified an 11-nt segment shared between *D. melanogaster* miR-6 and HeLa miR-27, but no further relationships were detected. One may speculate that most miRNAs only act on a single target 20 and therefore allow for rapid evolution by covariation, and that highly conserved miRNAs act on more than one target sequence, and therefore have a reduced probability for evolutionary drift by covariation [6]. An alternative interpretation is that the sets of miRNAs from *D. melanogaster* and humans are fairly incomplete and that many more miRNAs remain to 25 be discovered, which will provide the missing evolutionary links.

lin-4 and let-7 stRNAs were predicted to be excised from longer transcripts that contain approximately 30 base-pair stem-loop structures [1, 6]. Database searches for newly identified miRNAs revealed that all miRNAs 30 are flanked by sequences that have the potential to form stable stem-loop structures (Fig. 3 and 4). In many cases, we were able to detect the predicted, approximately 70-nt precursors by Northern blotting (Fig. 1).

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Some miRNA precursor sequences were also identified in mammalian cDNA (EST) databases [27], indicating that primary transcripts longer than 70-nt stem-loop precursors do also exist. We never cloned a 22-nt RNA complementary to any of the newly identified miRNAs, and it is as yet unknown how the cellular processing machinery distinguishes between the miRNA and its complementary strand. Comparative analysis of the precursor stem-loop structures indicates that the loops adjacent to the base-paired miRNA segment can be located on either side of the miRNA sequence (Fig. 3 and 4), suggesting that the 5' or 3' location of the stem-closing loop is not the determinant of miRNA excision. It is also unlikely that the structure, length or stability of the precursor stem is the critical determinant as the base-paired structures are frequently imperfect and interspersed by less stable, non-Watson-Crick base pairs such as G/A, U/U, C/U, A/A, and G/U wobbles. Therefore, a sequence-specific recognition process is a likely determinant for miRNA excision, perhaps mediated by members of the Argonaute (rde-1/ago1/piwi) protein family. Two members of this family, alg-1 and alg-2, have recently been shown to be critical for stRNA processing in *C. elegans* [13]. Members of the Argonaute protein family are also involved in RNAi and PTGS. In *D. melanogaster*, these include argonaute2, a component of the siRNA-endonuclease complex (RISC) [17], and its relative aubergine, which is important for silencing of repeat genes [18]. In other species, these include rde-1, argonaute1, and qde-2, in *C. elegans* [19], *Arabidopsis thaliana* [20], and *Neurospora crassa* [21], respectively. The Argonaute protein family therefore represents, besides the RNase III Dicer [12, 13], another evolutionary link between RNAi and miRNA maturation.

Despite advanced genome projects, computer-assisted detection of genes encoding functional RNAs remains problematic [22]. Cloning of expressed, short functional RNAs, similar to EST approaches (RNomics), is a powerful alternative and probably the most efficient method for identification of such novel gene products [23-26]. The number of functional RNAs has been

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widely underestimated and is expected to grow rapidly because of the development of new functional RNA cloning methodologies.

The challenge for the future is to define the function and the potential targets of these novel miRNAs by using bioinformatics as well as genetics, and to establish a complete catalogue of time- and tissue-specific distribution of the already identified and yet to be uncovered miRNAs. lin-4 and let-7 stRNAs negatively regulate the expression of proteins encoded by mRNAs whose 3' untranslated regions contain sites of complementarity to the stRNA [3-5].

Thus, a series of 33 novel genes, coding for 19- to 23-nucleotide microRNAs (miRNAs), has been cloned from fly embryos and human cells. Some of these miRNAs are highly conserved between vertebrates and invertebrates and are developmentally or tissue-specifically expressed. Two of the characterized human miRNAs may function as tumor suppressors in B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia. miRNAs are related to a small class of previously described 21- and 22-nt RNAs (lin-4 and let-7 RNAs), so-called small temporal RNAs (stRNAs), and regulate developmental timing in *C. elegans* and other species. Similar to stRNAs, miRNAs are presumed to regulate translation of specific target mRNAs by binding to partially complementary sites, which are present in their 3'-untranslated regions.

Deregulation of miRNA expression may be a cause of human disease, and detection of expression of miRNAs may become useful as a diagnostic. Regulated expression of miRNAs in cells or tissue devoid of particular miRNAs may be useful for tissue engineering, and delivery or transgenic expression of miRNAs may be useful for therapeutic intervention. miRNAs may also represent valuable drug targets itself. Finally, miRNAs and their precursor sequences may be engineered to recognize therapeutic valuable targets.

EXAMPLE 2: miRNAs from mouse.

To gain more detailed insights into the distribution and function of miRNAs in mammals, we investigated the tissue-specific distribution of miRNAs in adult mouse. Cloning of miRNAs from specific tissues was preferred over whole organism-based cloning because low-abundance miRNAs that normally go undetected by Northern blot analysis are identified clonally. Also, in situ hybridization techniques for detecting 21-nt RNAs have not yet been developed. Therefore, 19- to 25-nucleotide RNAs were cloned and sequenced from total RNA, which was isolated from 18.5 weeks old BL6 mice. Cloning of miRNAs was performed as follows: 0.2 to 1 mg of total RNA was separated on a 15% denaturing polyacrylamide gel and RNA of 19- to 25-nt size was recovered. A 5'-phosphorylated 3'-adapter oligonucleotide (5'-pUUUaaccgcgaattcccagx: uppercase, RNA; lowercase, DNA; p, phosphate; x, 3'-Amino-Modifier C-7, ChemGenes, Ashland, Ma, USA, Cat. No. NSS-1004; SEQ ID NO:54) and a 5'-adapter oligonucleotide (5'-acggaattcctcactAAA: uppercase, RNA; lowercase, DNA; SEQ ID NO:55) were ligated to the short RNAs. RT/PCR was performed with 3'-primer (5'-GACTAGCTGGAATTCGCGTTAAA; SEQ ID NO:56) and 5'-primer (5'-CAGCCAACGGAATTCCTCACTAAA; SEQ ID NO:57). In order to introduce Ban I restriction sites, a second PCR was performed using the primer pair 5'-CAGCCAACGGCACCGAATTCCTCACTAAA (SEQ ID NO:57) and 5'-GACTAGCTTGGTGCCGAATTCGCGTTAAA (SEQ ID NO:56), followed by concatamerization after Ban I digestion and T4 DNA ligation. Concatamers of 400 to 600 basepairs were cut out from 1.5% agarose gels and recovered by Biotrap (Schleicher & Schuell) electroelution (1x TAE buffer) and by ethanol precipitation. Subsequently, the 3' ends of the concatamers were filled in by incubating for 15 min at 72°C with Taq polymerase in standard PCR reaction mixture. This solution was diluted 3-fold with water and directly used for ligation into pCR2.1 TOPO vectors. Clones were screened for inserts by PCR and 30 to 50 samples were subjected to sequencing. Because RNA was prepared from combining

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tissues of several mice, minor sequence variations that were detected multiple times in multiple clones may reflect polymorphisms rather than RT/PCR mutations. Public database searching was used to identify the genomic sequences encoding the approx. 21-nt RNAs. The occurrence of 5 a 20 to 30 basepair fold-back structure involving the immediate upstream or downstream flanking sequences was used to assign miRNAs [36-38].

We examined 9 different mouse tissues and identified 34 novel miRNAs, some of which are highly tissue-specifically expressed (Table 3 and Figure 10 5). Furthermore, we identified 33 new miRNAs from different mouse tissues and also from human Soas-2 osteosarcoma cells (Table 4). miR-1 was previously shown by Northern analysis to be strongly expressed in adult heart, but not in brain, liver, kidney, lung or colon [37]. Here we show that miR-1 accounts for 45% of all mouse miRNAs found in heart, 15 yet miR-1 was still expressed at a low level in liver and midbrain even though it remained undetectable by Northern analysis. Three copies or polymorphic alleles of miR-1 were found in mice. The conservation of tissue-specific miR-1 expression between mouse and human provides additional evidence for a conserved regulatory role of this miRNA. In liver, 20 variants of miR-122 account for 72% of all cloned miRNAs and miR-122 was undetected in all other tissues analyzed. In spleen, miR-143 appeared to be most abundant, at a frequency of approx. 30%. In colon, miR-142-as, was cloned several times and also appeared at a frequency of 25 30%. In small intestine, too few miRNA sequences were obtained to permit statistical analysis. This was due to strong RNase activity in this tissue, which caused significant breakdown of abundant non-coding RNAs, e.g. rRNA, so that the fraction of miRNA in the cloned sequences was very low. For the same reason, no miRNA sequences were obtained from pancreas.

30

To gain insights in neural tissue miRNA distribution, we analyzed cortex, cerebellum and midbrain. Similar to heart, liver and small intestine, variants

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of a particular miRNA, miR-124, dominated and accounted for 25 to 48% of all brain miRNAs. miR-101, -127, -128, -131, and -132, also cloned from brain tissues, were further analyzed by Northern blotting and shown to be predominantly brain-specific. Northern blot analysis was performed as 5 described in Example 1. tRNAs and 5S rRNA were detected by ethidium staining of polyacrylamide gels prior to transfer to verify equal loading. Blots were stripped by boiling in deionized water for 5 min, and reprobed up to 4 times until the 21-nt signals became too weak for detection.

10 miR-125a and miR-125b are very similar to the sequence of *C. elegans* lin-4 stRNA and may represent its orthologs (Fig. 6A). This is of great interest because, unlike let-7 that was readily detected in other species, lin-4 has acquired a few mutations in the central region and thus escaped bioinformatic database searches. Using the mouse sequence miR-125b, we 15 could readily identify its ortholog in the *D. melanogaster* genome. miR-125a and miR-125b differ only by a central diuridine insertion and a U to C change. miR-125b is very similar to lin-4 stRNA with the differences located only in the central region, which is presumed to be bulged out during target mRNA recognition [41]. miR-125a and miR-125b were cloned 20 from brain tissue, but expression was also detected by Northern analysis in other tissues, consistent with the role for lin-4 in regulating neuronal remodeling by controlling lin-14 expression [43]. Unfortunately, orthologs to *C. elegans* lin-14 have not been described and miR-125 targets remain to be identified in *D. melanogaster* or mammals. Finally, miR-125b 25 expression is also developmentally regulated and only detectable in pupae and adult but not in embryo or larvae of *D. melanogaster* (Fig. 6B).

Sequence comparison of mouse miRNAs with previously described miRNA reveals that miR-99b and miR-99a are similar to *D. melanogaster*, mouse 30 and human miR-10 as well as *C. elegans* miR-51 [36], miR-141 is similar to *D. melanogaster* miR-8 , miR-29b is similar to *C. elegans* miR-83 , and miR-131 and miR-142-s are similar to *D. melanogaster* miR-4 and *C.*

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5 *elegans* miR-79 [36]. miR-124a is conserved between invertebrates and vertebrates. In this respect it should be noted that for almost every miRNA cloned from mouse was also encoded in the human genome, and frequently detected in other vertebrates, such as the pufferfish, *Fugu rubripes*, and the zebrafish, *Danio rerio*. Sequence conservation may point to conservation in function of these miRNAs. Comprehensive information about orthologous sequences is listed in Fig. 7.

10 In two cases both strands of miRNA precursors were cloned (Table 3), which was previously observed once for a *C. elegans* miRNA [36]. It is thought that the most frequently cloned strand of a miRNA precursor represents the functional miRNA, which is miR-30c-s and miR-142-as, s and as indicating the 5' or 3' side of the fold-back structure, respectively.

15 The mir-142 gene is located on chromosome 17, but was also found at the breakpoint junction of a t(8;17) translocation, which causes an aggressive B-cell leukemia due to strong up-regulation of a translocated MYC gene [44]. The translocated MYC gene, which was also truncated at the first exon, was located only 4-nt downstream of the 3'-end of the miR-142 precursor. This suggests that translocated MYC was under the control of the upstream miR-142 promoter. Alignment of mouse and human miR-142 containing EST sequences indicate an approximately 20 nt conserved sequence element downstream of the mir-142 hairpin. This element was lost in the translocation. It is conceivable that the absence of the 20 conserved downstream sequence element in the putative miR-142/mRNA fusion prevented the recognition of the transcript as a miRNA precursor and therefore may have caused accumulation of fusion transcripts and overexpression of MYC.

30 miR-155, which was cloned from colon, is excised from the known noncoding BIC RNA [47]. BIC was originally identified as a gene transcriptionally activated by promoter insertion at a common retroviral

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integration site in B cell lymphomas induced by avian leukosis virus. Comparison of BIC cDNAs from human, mouse and chicken revealed 78% identity over 138 nucleotides [47]. The identity region covers the miR-155 fold-back precursor and a few conserved boxes downstream of the fold-back sequence. The relatively high level of expression of BIC in lymphoid organs and cells in human, mouse and chicken implies an evolutionary conserved function, but BIC RNA has also been detected at low levels in non-hematopoietic tissues [47].

Another interesting observation was that segments of perfect complementarity to miRNAs are not observed in mRNA sequences or in genomic sequences outside the miRNA inverted repeat. Although this could be fortuitous, based on the link between RNAi and miRNA processing [11, 13, 43] it may be speculated that miRNAs retain the potential to cleave perfectly complementary target RNAs. Because translational control without target degradation could provide more flexibility it may be preferred over mRNA degradation.

In summary, 63 novel miRNAs were identified from mouse and 4 novel miRNAs were identified from human Soas-2 osteosarcoma cells (Table 3 and Table 4), which are conserved in human and often also in other non-mammalian vertebrates. A few of these miRNAs appear to be extremely tissue-specific, suggesting a critical role for some miRNAs in tissue-specification and cell lineage decisions. We may have also identified the fruitfly and mammalian ortholog of *C. elegans* lin-4 stRNA. The establishment of a comprehensive list of miRNA sequences will be instrumental for bioinformatic approaches that make use of completed genomes and the power of phylogenetic comparison in order to identify miRNA-regulated target mRNAs.

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- 20 14. Cloning of 19- to 24-nt RNAs from *D. melanogaster* 0-2 h embryo lysate was performed as described (8). For cloning of HeLa miRNAs, 1 mg of HeLa total RNA was separated on a 15% denaturing polyacrylamide gel and RNA of 19- to 25-nt size was recovered. A 5' phosphorylated 3' adapter oligonucleotide (5' pUUU-aaccgcgaattccagx: uppercase, RNA; lowercase, DNA; p, phosphate; x, 4-hydroxymethylbenzyl; SEQ ID NO:54) and a 5' adapter oligonucleotide (5' acggaattcctcactAAA: uppercase, RNA; lowercase, DNA; SEQ ID NO:55) were ligated to the short HeLa cell RNAs. RT/PCR was performed with 3' primer (5' GACTAGCTGGAATTCGCGGTTAAA; SEQ ID NO:56) and 5' primer (5' CAGCCAACGGAATTCCCTCACTAAA; SEQ ID NO:57), and followed by concatamerization after Eco RI digestion and T4 DNA
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ligation (8). After ligation of concatamers into pCR2.1 TOPO vectors, about 100 clones were selected and subjected to sequencing.

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Table 1

D. melanogaster miRNAs. The sequences given represent the most abundant, and typically longest miRNA sequence identified by cloning; miRNAs frequently vary in length by one or two nucleotides at their 3' termini. From 222 short RNAs sequenced, 69 (31%) corresponded to miRNAs, 103 (46%) to already characterized functional RNAs (rRNA, 7SL RNA, tRNAs), 30 (14%) to transposon RNA fragments, and 20 (10%) sequences with no database entry. The frequency (freq.) for cloning a particular miRNA relative to all identified miRNAs is indicated in percent.

5 Results of Northern blotting of total RNA isolated from staged populations of D. melanogaster are summarized. E, embryo; L, larval stage; P, pupae; A, adult; S2, Schneider-2 cells. The strength of the signal within each blot is represented from strongest (+++ to undetected (-). let-7 stRNA was probed as control. Genbank accession numbers and homologs of miRNAs

10 identified by database searching in other species are provided as supplementary material.

15

miRNA	sequence (5' to 3')	freq. (%)	E 0-3 h	E 0-6 h	L1+ L2	L3	P	A	S2
miR-1	UGGAUUGUAAAAGAAGUAUGGAG (SEQ ID NO:58)	32	+	+	++ +	++ +	++	++ +	-
20 miR-2a*	UAUCACAGCCAGCUUJUGAUGAGC (SEQ ID NO:59)	3							
miR-2b*	UAUCACAGCCAGCUUUGAGGAGC (SEQ ID NO:60)	3	++	++	++ +	++ +	++	+	++ +
25 miR-3	UCACUGGGCAAAGUGUGUCUCA#	9	+++	+++	-	-	-	-	-
miR-4	AUAAAGCUAGACAACCAUUGA (SEQ ID NO:62)	6	+++	+++	-	-	-	-	-
miR-5	AAAGGAACGAUCGUUGUGUAUG (SEQ ID NO:63)	1	+++	+++	+/-	+/-	-	-	-
miR-6	UAUCACAGUGGCUGUUUCUUUU	13	+++	+++	+/-	+/-	-	-	-
miR-7	UGGAAGACUAGUGAUUUUGUJGU	4	+++	++	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-
miR-8	UAAAUCUGUCAGGUAAAGAUGUC (SEQ ID NO:66)	3	+/-	+/-	++ +	++ +	+	++ +	-

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miR-9	UCUUJGGUUAUCUAGCUGUAUGA (SEQ ID NO:67)	7	+++	++	++	++	++	++	+/-	-
miR-10	ACCCUGUAGAUCCGAAUUUGU (SEQ ID NO:68)	1	+	+	++	++	++	+/-	+	-
miR-11	CAUCACAGUCUGAGUUUCUUGC (SEQ ID NO:69)	7	+++	+++	++	++	++	++	+	-
miR-12	UGAGUAUUACAUCAGGUACUGGU (SEQ ID NO:70)	7	+	+	++	++	+	++	+/-	
5	miR-13a*	UAUCACAGCCAUUUUGACGAGU (SEQ ID NO:71)	1	+++	+++	++	++	+	++	++
	miR-13b*	UAUCACAGCCAUUUUGAUGAGU (SEQ ID NO:72)	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	miR-14	UCAGUCUUUUUCUCUCUCCUA (SEQ ID NO:73)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	let-7	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU (SEQ ID NO:74)	0	-	-	-	-	++	++	-

# = (SEQ ID NO:61)

\*Similar miRNA sequences are difficult to distinguish by Northern blotting because of potential cross-hybridization of probes.

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Table 2

Human miRNAs. From 220 short RNAs sequenced, 100 (45%) corresponded to miRNAs, 53 (24%) to already characterized functional RNAs (rRNA, snRNAs, tRNAs), and 67 (30%) sequences with no database entry. Results of Northern blotting of total RNA isolated from different vertebrate species and S2 cells are indicated. For legend, see Table 1.

	miRNA	sequence (5' to 3')	freq. (%)	HeLa cells	mouse kidney	adult fish	frog ovary	S2
5	let-7a*	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUUAUAGUU#	10	+++	+++	+++	-	-
10	let-7b*	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUGUGGUU (SEQ ID NO: 76)	13					
15	let-7c*	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUGGUU (SEQ ID NO: 77)	3					
20	let-7d*	AGAGGUAGUAGGUUGCAUAGU (SEQ ID NO: 78)	2	+++	+++	+++	-	-
25	let-7e*	UGAGGUAGGAGGUUGUUAUAGU (SEQ ID NO: 79)	2	+++	+++	+++	-	-
30	let-7f*	UGAGGUAGUAGAUUGUAUAGUU (SEQ ID NO: 80)	1					
35	miR-15	UAGCAGCACAUAAUGGUUUGUG (SEQ ID NO: 81)	3	+++	++	+	+/-	-
40	miR-16	UAGCAGCACGUAAAUAUUGGCG (SEQ ID NO: 82)	10	+++	+	+/-	+/-	-
45	miR-17	ACUGCAGUGAAGGCACUUGU (SEQ ID NO: 83)	1	+++	-	-	-	-
50	miR-18	UAAGGUGCAUCUAGUGCCAGAUA (SEQ ID NO: 84)	2	+++	-	-	-	-
55	miR-19a*	UGUGCAAAUCUAUGCAAAACUGA (SEQ ID NO: 85)	1	+++	-	+/-	-	-
60	miR-19b*	UGUGCAAAUCCAUGCAAAACUGA (SEQ ID NO: 86)	3					
65	miR-20	UAAAGUGCUUAUAGUGCAGGU (SEQ ID NO: 87)	4	+++	-	+	-	-
70	miR-21	UAGCUUAUCAGACUGAUGUUGA (SEQ ID NO: 88)	10	+++	+	++	-	-
75	miR-22	AAGCUGCCAGUUGAAGAACUGU (SEQ ID NO: 89)	10	+++	+++	+	+/-	-
80	miR-23	AUCACAUUGCCAGGGAUUUC (SEQ ID NO: 90)	2	+++	+++	+++	+	-

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miR-24	UGGCUCAGUUCAGCAGGAACAG (SEQ ID NO: 91)	4	++	+++	++	-	-
miR-25	CAUUGCACUUGUCUCGGUCUGA (SEQ ID NO: 92)	3	+++	+	++	-	-
miR-26a*	UUCAAGUAUCCAGGAUAGGCU (SEQ ID NO: 93)	2	+	++	+++	-	-
miR-26b*	UUCAAGUAUUCAGGAUAGGUU (SEQ ID NO: 94)	1					-
5 miR-27	UUCACAGUGGCUAAGUUCCGCU (SEQ ID NO: 95)	2	+++	+++	++	-	-
miR-28	AAGGAGCUCACAGUCUAAUUGAG (SEQ ID NO: 96)	2	+++	+++	-	-	-
miR-29	CUAGCACCAUCUGAAAUCGGUU (SEQ ID NO: 97)	2	+	+++	+/-	-	-
miR-30	CUUUCAUCGGGAUGUUUGCGAGC (SEQ ID NO: 98)	2	+++	+++	+++	-	-
miR-31	GGCAAGAUGCUGGCAUAGCUG (SEQ ID NO: 99)	2	+++	-	-	-	-
10 miR-32	UAUUGCACAUUACUAAGUUGC (SEQ ID NO: 100)	1	-	-	-	-	-
miR-33	GUGCAUUGUAGUUGCAUUG (SEQ ID NO: 101)	1	-	-	-	-	-
miR-1	UGGAAGUAAAAGAAGUAUGGAG (SEQ ID NO: 102)	0	-	-	+	-	-
miR-7	UGGAAGACUAGUGAUUUUGUUGU (SEQ ID NO: 103)	0	+	-	+/-	-	+/-
miR-9	UCUUUGGUUAUCUAGCUGUAUGA (SEQ ID NO: 104)	0	-	-	-	-	-
15 miR-10	ACCCUGUAGAUCCGAAUUUGU (SEQ ID NO: 105)	0	-	+	-	-	-

# = (SEQ ID NO:75)

\*Similar miRNA sequences are difficult to distinguish by Northern  
20 blotting because of potential cross-hybridization of probes.

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**Table 3**

Mouse miRNAs. The sequences indicated represent the longest miRNA sequences identified by cloning. The 3'-terminus of miRNAs is often truncated by one or two nucleotides. miRNAs that are more than 85% identical in sequence (i.e. share 18 out of 21 nucleotides) or contain 1- or 2-nucleotide internal deletions are referred to by the same gene number followed by a lowercase letter. Minor sequence variations between related miRNAs are generally found near the ends of the miRNA sequence and are thought to not compromise target RNA recognition. Minor sequence variations may also represent A to G and C to U changes, which are accommodated as G-U wobble base pairs during target recognition. miRNAs with the suffix -s or -as indicate RNAs derived from either the 5'-half or the 3'-half of a miRNA precursor. Mouse brains were dissected into midbrain, mb, cortex, cx, cerebellum, cb. The tissues analyzed were heart, ht; liver, lv; small intestine, si; colon, co; cortex, ct; cerebellum, cb; midbrain, mb.

20	miRNA	sequence (5' to 3')	Number of clones							
			ht	lv	sp	si	co	cx	cb	mb
	let-7a	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU (SEQ ID NO:106)		3			1	1		7
	let-7b	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUGUGGUU (SEQ ID NO:107)		1	1				2	5
	let-7c	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUGGUU (SEQ ID NO:108)		2			2	5	19	
	let-7d	AGAGGUAGUAGGUUGCAUAGU (SEQ ID NO:109)	2			2	2			2
25	let-7e	UGAGGUAGGAGGUUGUAUAGU (SEQ ID NO:110)			1					2
	let-7f	UGAGGUAGUAGAUUGUAUAGUU (SEQ ID NO:111)			2			3	3	
	let-7g	UGAGGUAGUAGUUUGUACAGUA (SEQ ID NO:112)					1	1		2
	let-7h	UGAGGUAGUAGUGUGUACAGUU (SEQ ID NO:113)					1	1		

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let-7i	UGAGGUAGUAGUUUGUGCU (SEQ ID NO:114)			1	1
miR-1b	UGGAAUGUAAAGAAGUAUGUAA (SEQ ID NO:115)	4	2		1
miR-1c	UGGAAUGUAAAGAAGUAUGUAC (SEQ ID NO:116)	7			
miR-1d	UGGAAUGUAAAGAAGUAUGUAUU (SEQ ID NO:117)	16			1
5	miR-9	UCUUJUGGUUAUCUAGCUGUAUGA (SEQ ID NO:118)		3	4
miR-15a	UAGCAGCACAUAAUGGUUUGUG (SEQ ID NO:119)	1			2
miR-15b	UAGCAGCACAUCAUGGUUUACA (SEQ ID NO:120)	1			
miR-16	UAGCAGCACGUAAAUAUUGGCG (SEQ ID NO:121)	1	1	2	1
miR-18	UAAGGUGCAUCUAGUGCAGAUA (SEQ ID NO:122)		1		
10	miR-19b	UGUGCAAAUCCAUGCAAAACUGA (SEQ ID NO:123)		1	
miR-20	UAAAAGUGGUUUAUAGUGCAGGUAG (SEQ ID NO:124)			1	
miR-21	UAGCUUAUCAGACUGAUGUUGA (SEQ ID NO:125)	1	1	2	1
miR-22	AAGCUGCCAGUUGAAGAACUGU (SEQ ID NO:126)	2	1	1	1
miR-23a	AUCACAUUGCCAGGGAUUUCC (SEQ ID NO:127)	1			
15	miR-23b	AUCACAUUGCCAGGGAUUACCAC (SEQ ID NO:128)			1
miR-24	UGGCUCAGUUUCAGCAGGAACAG (SEQ ID NO:129)	1		1	1
miR-26a	UUCAAGUAAUCCAGGAUAGGCU (SEQ ID NO:130)			3	2
miR-26b	UUCAAGUAAUUCAGGAUAGGUU (SEQ ID NO:131)	2		4	1
miR-27a	UUUCACAGUGGCUAAGUUCCGCU (SEQ ID NO:132)	1	2	1	2
20	miR-27b	UUUCACAGUGGCUAAGUUCUG (SEQ ID NO:133)			1
miR-29a	CUAGCACCAUCUGAAAUCGGUU (SEQ ID NO:134)	1		1	1
miR-29b/miR-102	UAGCACCAUUUGAAAUCAGUGUU (SEQ ID NO:135)	1		1	5
miR-29c/	UAGCACCAUUUGAAAUCGGUUA (SEQ ID NO:136)	1		3	1

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miR-30a-s/miR-97	UGUAAAACAUCUCGACUGGAAGC (SEQ ID NO:137)	1	1	1
miR-30a-as <sup>a</sup>	CUUUCAGUCGGAUGUUUGCAGC (SEQ ID NO:138)			1
miR-30b	UGUAAAACAUCUACACUCAGC (SEQ ID NO:139)	1		2
miR-30c	UGUAAAACAUCUACACUCUCAGC (SEQ ID NO:140)	2	1	1
5 miR-30d	UGUAAAACAUCCCGACUGGAAG (SEQ ID NO:141)	1		
miR-99a/miR-99	ACCCGUAGAUCCGAUCUUGU (SEQ ID NO:142)		1	
miR-99b	CACCCGUAGAACCGACCUUGCG (SEQ ID NO:143)			1
miR-101	UACAGUACUGUGAUAAACUGA (SEQ ID NO:144)		2	1
miR-122a	UGGAGUGUGACAAUGGUGUUJUGU (SEQ ID NO:145)	3		
10 miR-122b	UGGAGUGUGACAAUGGUGUUJUGA (SEQ ID NO:146)	11		
miR-122a,b	UGGAGUGUGACAAUGGUGUUJUG (SEQ ID NO:147)	23		
miR-123	CAUUAUUACUUUUGGUACGCG (SEQ ID NO:148)	1	2	
miR-124a <sup>b</sup>	UUAAGGCACGCGG-UGAAUGCCA (SEQ ID NO:149)		1	37 41 24
miR-124b	UUAAGGCACGCGGGUGAAUGC (SEQ ID NO:150)		1	3
15 miR-125a	UCCCUGAGACCCUUUAACCUGUG (SEQ ID NO:151)		1	1
miR-125b	UCCCUGAGACCCU--AACUUGUGA (SEQ ID NO:152)		1	
miR-126	UCGUACCGUGAGUAAAUGC (SEQ ID NO:153)	4		1
miR-127	UCGGAUCCGUCUGAGCUUGGCU (SEQ ID NO:154)			1
miR-128	UCACAGUGAACCGGUCUCUUUU (SEQ ID NO:155)		2	2
20 miR-129	CUUUUUUUCGGUCUGGGCUUGC (SEQ ID NO:156)			1
miR-130	CAGUGCAAUGUUAAAAGGGC (SEQ ID NO:157)			1
miR-131	UAAAGCUAGAUAAACCGAAAGU (SEQ ID NO:158)		1	1
miR-132	UAACAGUCUACAGCCAUGGUCGU (SEQ ID NO:159)			1

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miR-133	UUGGUCCCCUUCAACCAGCUGU (SEQ ID NO:160)	4	1		
miR-134	UGUGACUGGUUGACCAGAGGGA (SEQ ID NO:161)		1		
miR-135	UAUGGCUUUUUAUCCUAUGUGAA (SEQ ID NO:162)		1		
miR-136	ACUCCAUUUGUUUUGAUGAUGGA (SEQ ID NO:163)		1		
5 miR-137	UAUJUGCUUAAGAAUACGCGUAG (SEQ ID NO:164)		1	1	
miR-138	AGCUGGUGUUGUGAAUC (SEQ ID NO:165)		1		
miR-139	UCUACAGUGCACGUGUCU (SEQ ID NO:166)		1	1	
miR-140	AGUGGUUUUACCUAUGGUAG (SEQ ID NO:167)		1		
miR-141	AACACUGUCUGGUAAAGAUGG (SEQ ID NO:168)	1	1	1	
10 miR-142-s	CAUAAAGUAGAAAGCACUAC (SEQ ID NO:169)		1	1	
miR-142-as <sup>b</sup>	UGUAGUGUUUCCUACUUUAUGG (SEQ ID NO:170)	1	1	6	
miR-143	UGAGAUGAAGCACUGUAGCUA (SEQ ID NO:171)	3	7	2	1
miR-144	UACAGUAUAGAUGAUGUACUAG (SEQ ID NO:172)	2		1	
miR-145	GUCCAGUUUUCCCAGGAAUCCUU (SEQ ID NO:173)	1			
15 miR-146	UGAGAACUGAAUUCCAUGGGUUU (SEQ ID NO:174)	1			
miR-147	GUGUGUGAAAUGCUUCUGCC (SEQ ID NO:175)		1		
miR-148	UCAGUGCACUACAGAACUUUGU (SEQ ID NO:176)		1		
miR-149	UCUGGCUCCGUGUCUUCACUCC (SEQ ID NO:177)	1			
miR-150	UCUCCCAACCUUGUACCAGUGU (SEQ ID NO:178)			1	
20 miR-151	CUAGACUGAGGCUCCUUGAGGU (SEQ ID NO:179)		1		
miR-152	UCAGUGCAUGACAGAACUUGG (SEQ ID NO:180)		1		
miR-153	UUGCAUAGUCACAAAGUGA (SEQ ID NO:181)			1	
miR-154	UAGGUUAUCCGUGUUGCCUUCG (SEQ ID NO.182)				1

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miR-155

UUAUAGCUAAUUGUGAUAGGGG  
(SEQ ID NO:183)

1

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5   <sup>a</sup>The originally described miR-30 was renamed to miR-30a-as in order to distinguish it from the miRNA derived from the opposite strand of the precursor encoded by the mir-30a gene. miR-30a-s is equivalent to miR-97 [46].

<sup>b</sup>A 1-nt length heterogeneity is found on both 5' and 3' end. The 22-nt miR sequence is shown, but only 21-nt miRNAs were cloned.

**Table 4**

Mouse and human miRNAs. The sequences indicated represent the longest miRNA sequences identified by cloning. The 3' terminus of miRNAs is often truncated by one or two nucleotides. miRNAs that are more than 85% identical in sequence (i.e. share 18 out of 21 nucleotides) or contain 1- or 2-nucleotide internal deletions are referred to by the same gene number followed by a lowercase letter. Minor sequence variations between related miRNAs are generally found near the ends of the miRNA sequence and are thought to not compromise target RNA recognition. Minor sequence variations may also represent A to G and C to U changes; which are accommodated as G-U wobble base pairs during target recognition. Mouse brains were dissected into midbrain, mb, cortex, cx, cerebellum, cb. The tissues analyzed were lung, ln; liver, lv; spleen, sp; kidney, kd; skin, sk; testis, ts; ovary, ov; thymus, thy; eye, ey; cortex, ct; cerebellum, cb; midbrain, mb. The human osteosarcoma cells SAOS-2 cells contained an inducible p53 gene (p53-, uninduced p53; p53+, induced p53); the differences in miRNAs identified from induced and uninduced SAOS cells were not statistically significant.

5	miRNA	Sequence (5' to 3')	number of clones	mouse tissues								human SAOS-2 cells		
				ln	lv	sp	kd	sk	ts	ov	thy	ey	p53-	p53+
10	miR-C1	AACAUUCAACCGUGUGGGUAGGU	1			1					2			(SEQ ID NO.184)
	miR-C2	UUUGGCAAUGGUAGAACUCACA									1			(SEQ ID NO.185)
	miR-C3	UAUGGCACUGGUAGAACUUCACUG									1			(SEQ ID NO.186)
	miR-C4	CUUUUUGGGGUUCUGGGCUCUUGUU					1				1			(SEQ ID NO.187)
	miR-C5	UGGACGGAGAACUGAUAAAGGU									2			(SEQ ID NO.188)
	miR-C6	UGGAGAGAAAGGCAGUUC									1			(SEQ ID NO.189)
15	miR-C7	CAAAGAAUUCUCCUUUUUGGUU									1	1		(SEQ ID NO.190)
	miR-C8	UCGGUGCUUUGGUUGGAGCCGG									1			(SEQ ID NO.191)
	miR-C9	UAACACUGUCUGGUAAACGAUG									1			(SEQ ID NO.192)
	miR-C10	CAUCCUUUGGCAUGGGAGGGGU									1			(SEQ ID NO.193)
	miR-C11	GUGGCCUACUGGACUGACAUCAGU									1			(SEQ ID NO.194)
20	miR-C12	UGAUAUUUUGAUAAUUAUGGU									2			(SEQ ID NO.195)
	miR-C13	CAACGGAAUCCAAAGGAGCU					2				1			(SEQ ID NO.196)
	miR-C14	CUGACCUAUGAUUGACA					2				1			(SEQ ID NO.197)

miR-C15	UACCACAGGGUAGAACCAAGGA	1	(SEQ ID NO.198)
miR-C16	AACUGGCCUCAAGGUCCAG	1	(SEQ ID NO.199)
miR-C17	UGUAAACAGCAACUCCAUGGG	1	(SEQ ID NO.200)
miR-C18	UAGCAGCACAGAAAUUUGGC	2	(SEQ ID NO.201)
5		1	(SEQ ID NO.202)
miR-C19	UAGGUAGUUUCAUGGUUGGG	1	(SEQ ID NO.203)
miR-C20	UUUACCCUUUCUCCACCGC	1	(SEQ ID NO.204)
miR-C21	GGUCCAGGGGAGAUAGG	1	(SEQ ID NO.205)
miR-C22	CCCAGUGUUUAGCUACCGUU	1	(SEQ ID NO.206)
miR-C23	UAAUACUGCCUGGUAAUGAUGAC	2	(SEQ ID NO.207)
10		1	(SEQ ID NO.208)
miR-C24	UACUCAGUAAGGCCAUUGUUU	1	(SEQ ID NO.209)
miR-C25	AGAGGUUAUGGCCAUGGGAAAGA	1	(SEQ ID NO.210)
miR-C26	UGAAAUGUUUAGGACCACUAG	1	(SEQ ID NO.211)
miR-C27	UUCCUUUGUCAUCCUAUGCCUG	1	(SEQ ID NO.212)
miR-C28	UCCUUCAUUCACCGGAGUCUG	2	(SEQ ID NO.213)
15		1	(SEQ ID NO.214)
miR-C29	GUGAAUGGUUAGGCCACUAGA	2	(SEQ ID NO.215)
miR-C30	UGGAAUGUAAGGAGUGUGGG	2	(SEQ ID NO.216)
miR-C31	UACAGUAGUCUGGCCACAUUGUU	1	(SEQ ID NO.217)
miR-C32	CCCGUAGAACCGAAUUTUGUGU	1	
miR-C33	AAACCCGUAGAACCGAACUUGUGAA	1	
20	miR-C34	GCUUUCUCCUGGCUUCUCCUCCUC	1

**Table 5**

*D. melanogaster* miRNA sequences and genomic location. The sequences given represent the most abundant, and typically longest miRNA sequences identified by cloning. It was frequently observed that miRNAs vary in length by one or 5 two nucleotides at their 3'-terminus. From 222 short RNAs sequenced, 69 (31%) corresponded to miRNAs, 103 (46%) to already characterized functional RNAs (rRNA, 7SL RNA, tRNAs), 30 (14%) to transposon RNA fragments, and 20 (10%) sequences with no database entry. RNA sequences with a 5'-guanosine are likely to be underrepresented due to the cloning procedure (8). 10 miRNA homologs found in other species are indicated. Chromosomal location (chr.) and GenBank accession numbers (acc. nb.) are indicated. No ESTs matching miR-1 to miR-14 were detectable by database searching.

	miRNA	sequence (5' to 3')	chr., acc. nb.	remarks
15	miR-1	UGGAAUGUAAGAAGUAUGGAG (SEQ ID NO: 58)	2L, AE003667	homologs: <i>C. briggsae</i> , G20U, AC87074; <i>C. elegans</i> G20U, U97405; mouse, G20U, G22U, AC020867; human, chr. 20, G20U, G22U, AL449263; ESTs: zebrafish, G20U, G22U, BF157-601; cow, G20U, G22U, BE722-224; human, G20U, G22U, AI220268
20	miR-2a	UAUCACAGCCAGCUUUGAUGAGC (SEQ ID NO: 59)	2L, AE003663	2 precursor variants clustered with a copy of <i>mir-2b</i>
25	miR-2b	UAUCACAGCCAGCUUUGAGGAGC (SEQ ID NO: 60)	2L, AE003620 2L, AE003663	2 precursor variants
	miR-3	UCACUGGGCAAAGUGUGUCUCA (SEQ ID NO: 61)	2R, AE003795	in cluster <i>mir-3</i> to <i>mir-6</i>
	miR-4	AUAAAGCUAGACAACCAUUGA (SEQ ID NO: 62)	2R, AE003795	in cluster <i>mir-3</i> to <i>mir-6</i>

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5	miR-5	AAAGGAACGAUCGUUGUGUAUAG (SEQ ID NO: 63)	2R, AE003795	in cluster <i>mir-3</i> to <i>mir-6</i>
	miR-6	UAUCACAGUGGCUGUUUCUUUU (SEQ ID NO: 64)	2R, AE003795	in cluster <i>mir-3</i> to <i>mir-6</i> with 3 variants
10	miR-7	UGGAAGACUAGUGAUUUUGUUGU (SEQ ID NO: 65)	2R, AE003791	homologs: human, chr. 19 AC006537, EST BF373391; mouse chr. 17 AC026385, EST AA881786
	miR-8	UAAAUCUGUCAGGUAAAAGAUGUC (SEQ ID NO: 66)	2R, AE003805	
15	miR-9	UCUUUGGUUAUCUAGCUGUAUGA (SEQ ID NO: 67)	3L, AE003516	homologs: mouse, chr. 19, AF155142; human, chr. 5, AC026701, chr. 15, AC005316
	miR-10	ACCCUGUAGAUCCGAAUUUGU (SEQ ID NO: 68)	AE001574	homologs: mouse, chr 11, AC011194; human, chr. 17, AF287967
20	miR-11	CAUCACAGUCUGAGUUUCUUGC (SEQ ID NO: 69)	3R, AE003735	intronic location
	miR-12	UGAGUAUUACAUCAAGGUACUGGU (SEQ ID NO: 70)	X, AE003499	intronic location
	miR-13a	UAUCACAGCCAUUUUGACGAGU (SEQ ID NO: 71)	3R, AE003708 X, AE003446	<i>mir-13a</i> clustered with <i>mir-13b</i> on chr. 3R
	miR-13b	UAUCACAGCCAUUUUGAUGAGU (SEQ ID NO: 72)	3R, AE003708	<i>mir-13a</i> clustered with <i>mir-13b</i> on chr. 3R
	miR-14	UCAGUCUUUUUCUCUCUCCUA (SEQ ID NO: 73)	2R, AE003833	no signal by Northern analysis

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**Table 6**

Human miRNA sequences and genomic location. From 220 short RNAs sequenced, 100 (45%) corresponded to miRNAs, 53 (24%) to already characterized functional RNAs (rRNA, snRNAs, tRNAs), and 67 (30%) sequences with no database entry. For legend, see Table 1.

	miRNA	sequence (5' to 3')	chr. or EST, acc. nb.	remarks*
10	let-7a	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU (SEQ ID NO:75)	9, AC007924, 11, AP001359, 17, AC087784, 22, AL049853	sequences of chr 9 and 17 identical and clustered with <i>let-7f</i> , homologs: <i>C. elegans</i> , AF274345; <i>C. briggsae</i> , AF210771, <i>D. melanogaster</i> , AE003659
	let-7b	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUGUGGUU (SEQ ID NO:76)	22, AL049853†, ESTs, AI382133, AW028822	homologs: mouse, EST AI481799; rat, EST, BE120662
	let-7c	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUGGUU (SEQ ID NO:77)	21, AP001667	Homologs: mouse, EST, AA575575
	let-7d	AGAGGUAGUAGGUUGCAUAGU (SEQ ID NO:78)	17, AC087784, 9, AC007924	identical precursor sequences
20	let-7e	UGAGGUAGGAGGUUGUAUAGU (SEQ ID NO:79)	19, AC018755	
	let-7f	UGAGGUAGUAGAUUGUAUAGUU (SEQ ID NO:80)	9, AC007924, 17, AC087784, X, AL592046	sequences of chr 9 and 17 identical and clustered with <i>let-7a</i>
	miR-15	UAGCAGCACAUAAUGGUUTUGUG (SEQ ID NO:81)	13, AC069475	in cluster with <i>mir-16</i> homolog
	miR-16	UAGCAGCACGUAAAUAUUGGCG (SEQ ID NO:82)	13, AC069475	in cluster with <i>mir-15</i> homolog

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5	miR-17	ACUGGCAGUGAAGGCACUUGU (SEQ ID NO: 83)	13, AL138714	in cluster with <i>mir-17</i> to <i>mir-20</i>
10	miR-18	UAAGGGUGCAUCUAGUGGCAGAUA (SEQ ID NO: 84)	13, AL138714	in cluster with <i>mir-17</i> to <i>mir-20</i>
15	miR-19a	UGUGCAAAUCUAUGCAAAACUG A (SEQ ID NO: 85)	13, AL138714	in cluster with <i>mir-17</i> to <i>mir-20</i>
20	miR-19b	UGUGCAAAUCCAUGCAAAACUG A (SEQ ID NO: 86)	13, AL138714, X, AC002407	in cluster with <i>mir-17</i> to <i>mir-20</i>
25	miR-20	UAAAAGUGCUUAUAGUGGCAGGU (SEQ ID NO: 87)	13, AL138714	in cluster with <i>mir-17</i> to <i>mir-20</i>
30	miR-21	UAGCUUAUCAGACUGAUGUUGA (SEQ ID NO: 88)	17, AC004686, EST, BF326048	homologs: mouse, EST, AA209594
35	miR-22	AAGCUGCCAGUUGAAGAACUGU (SEQ ID NO: 89)	ESTs, AW961681†, AA456477, AI752503, BF030303, HS1242049	human ESTs highly similar; homologs: mouse, ESTs, e.g. AA823029; rat, ESTs, e.g. BF543690
40	miR-23	AUCACAUUGCCAGGGAUUUCC (SEQ ID NO: 90)	19, AC020916	homologs: mouse, EST, AW124037; rat, EST, BF402515
45	miR-24	UGGCUCAGUUCAGCAGGAACAG (SEQ ID NO: 91)	9, AF043896, 19, AC020916	homologs: mouse, ESTs, AA111466, AI286629; pig, EST, BE030976
50	miR-25	CAUUGCACUUGUCUCGGUCUGA (SEQ ID NO: 92)	7, AC073842, EST, BE077684	human chr 7 and EST identical; highly similar precursors in mouse ESTs (e.g. AI595464); fish precursor different STS: G46757
55	miR-26a	UUCAAGUAAUCCAGGAUAGGU (SEQ ID NO: 93)	3, AP000497	

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miR-26b	UUCAAGUAUUUCAGGAUAGGUU (SEQ ID NO:94)	2, AC021016	
miR-27	UUCACAGUGGCUAAGUUCGGCU (SEQ ID NO:95)	19, AC20916	U22C mutation in human genomic sequence
5	miR-28	AAGGAGCUCACAGUCUAUTUGAG (SEQ ID NO:96)	3, AC063932
miR-29	CUAGCACCAUCUGAAAUCGGUU (SEQ ID NO:97)	7, AF017104	
10	miR-30	CUUUUCAGUCGGAUGUUUUGCAGC (SEQ ID NO:98)	6, AL035467
miR-31	GGCAAGAUGCUGGCAUAGCUG (SEQ ID NO:99)	9, AL353732	
miR-32	UAUUGCACAUUACUAAGUUGC (SEQ ID NO:100)	9, AL354797	not detected by Northern blotting
15	miR-33	GUGCAUUGUAGUUGCAUUG (SEQ ID NO:101)	22, Z99716
			not detected by Northern blotting

\*If several ESTs were retrieved for one organism in the database, only those with different precursor sequences are listed.

20 †precursor structure shown in Fig. 4.

**Claims**

1. Isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising

5

(a) a nucleotide sequence as shown in Table 1, Table 2, Table 3 or Table 4 or a precursor thereof as shown in Figure 3, Figure 4 or Figure 7.

10

(b) a nucleotide sequence which is the complement of (a),

(c) a nucleotide sequence which has an identity of at least 80% to a sequence of (a) or (b) and/or

15

(d) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a sequence of (a), (b) and/or (c).

2. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the identity of sequence (c) is at least 90%.

20

3. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the identity of sequence (c) is at least 95%.

25

4. The nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-3, which is selected from miR 1-14 as shown in Table 1 or miR 15-33 as shown in Table 2 or miR 1-155 as shown in Table 3 or miR-C1-34 as shown in Table 4 or a complement thereof.

30

5. The nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-3, which is selected from miR 1-14 as shown in Figure 3 or let 7a-7f or miR 15-33, as shown in Figure 4 or let 7a-i or miR 1-155 or miR-C1-34, as shown in Figure 7 or a complement thereof.

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6. The nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-4 which is a miRNA molecule or an analog thereof having a length of from 18-25 nucleotides.
5. The nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-3 or 5, which is a miRNA precursor molecule having a length of 60-80 nucleotides or a DNA molecule coding therefor.
10. The nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-7, which is single-stranded.
15. The nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-7, which is at least partially double-stranded.
10. The nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-9, which is selected from RNA, DNA or nucleic acid analog molecules.
15. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, which is a molecule containing at least one modified nucleotide analog.
20. 12. The nucleic molecule of claim 10 which is a recombinant expression vector.
25. 13. A pharmaceutical composition containing as an active agent at least one nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1-12 and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
14. The composition of claim 13 for diagnostic applications.
15. The composition of claim 13 for therapeutic applications.
30. 16. The composition of any one of claims 13-15 as a marker or a modulator for developmental or pathogenic processes.

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17. The composition of claim 13 as a marker or modulator of developmental disorders, particularly cancer, such a B-cell chronic leukemia.

18. The composition of any one of claims 13-15 as a marker or modulator of gene expression.

19. The composition of claim 18 as a marker or modulator of the expression of a gene, which is at least partially complementary to said nucleic acid molecule.

20. A method of identifying microRNA molecules or precursor molecules thereof comprising ligating 5'- and 3'-adapter molecules to the ends of a size-fractionated RNA population, reverse transcribing said adapter-containing RNA population and characterizing the reverse transcription products.

Fig. 1 A

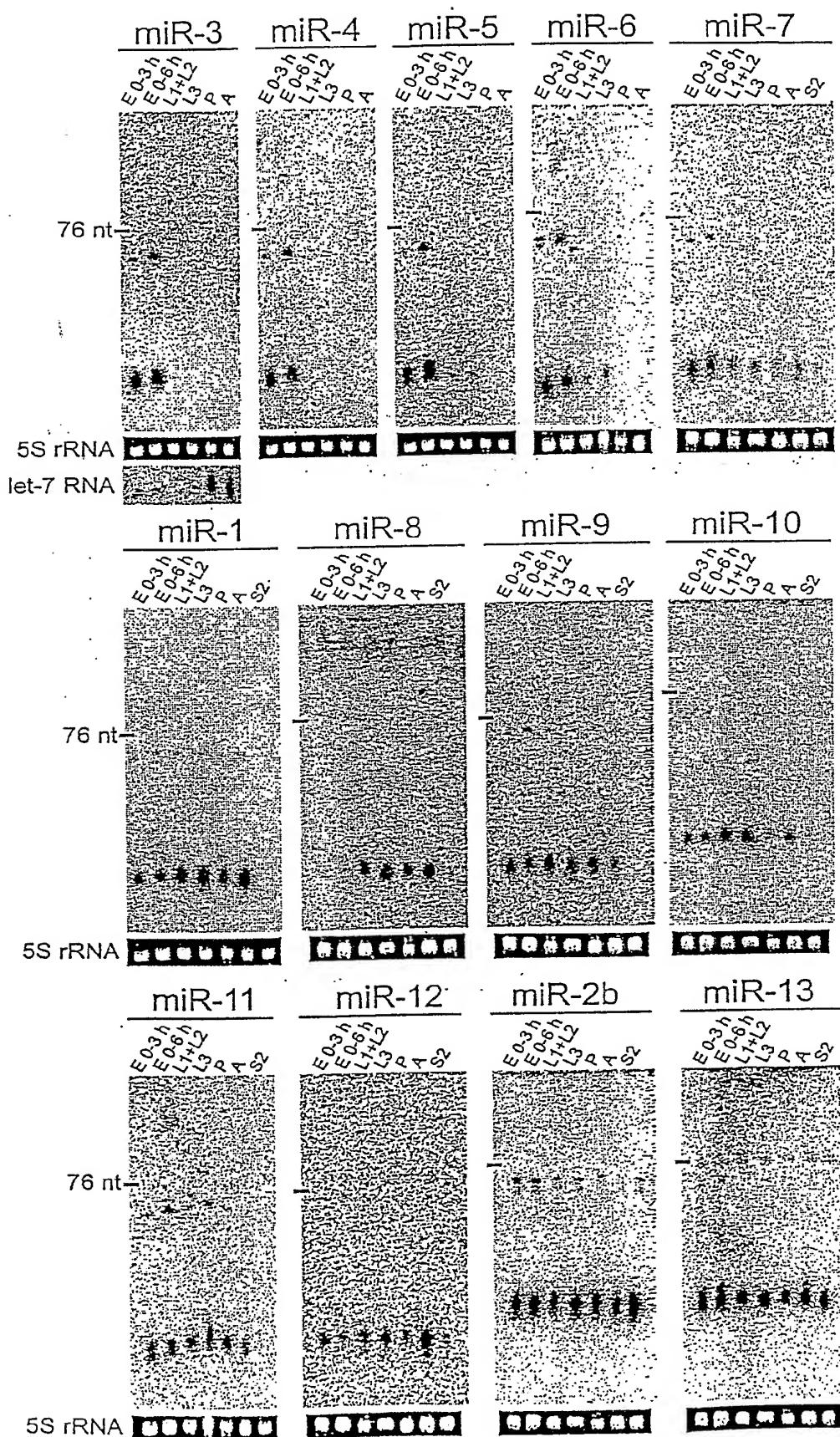


Fig. 1 B

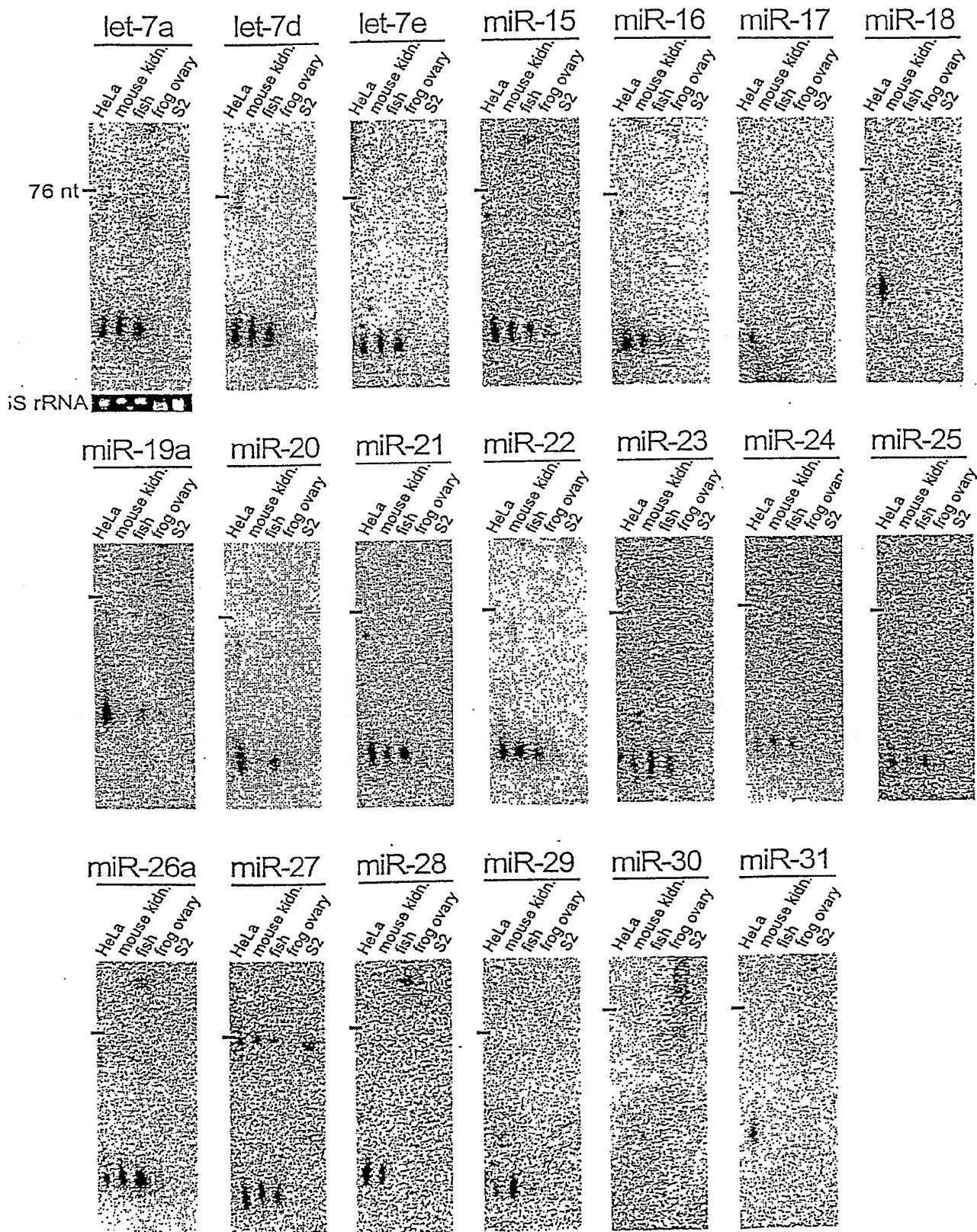


Fig. 2

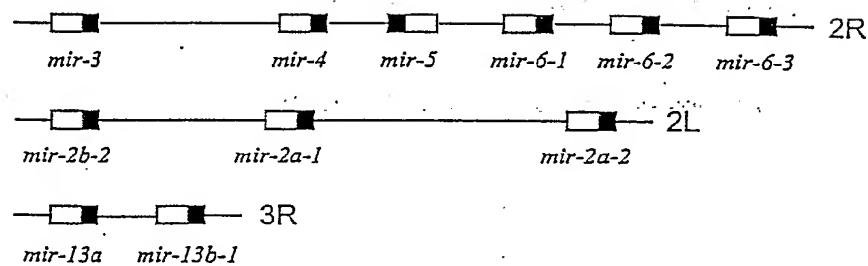
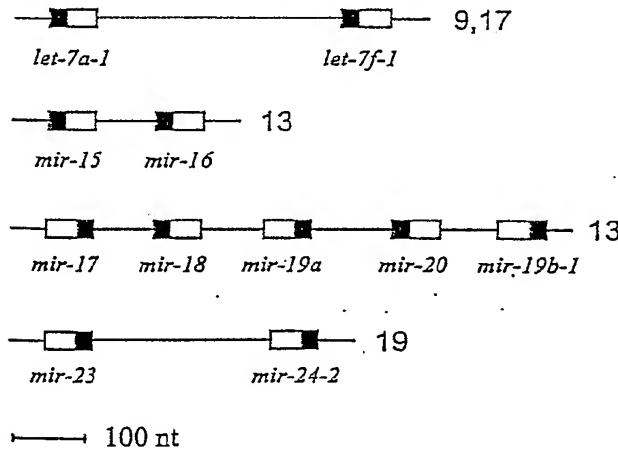
**A****B**

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

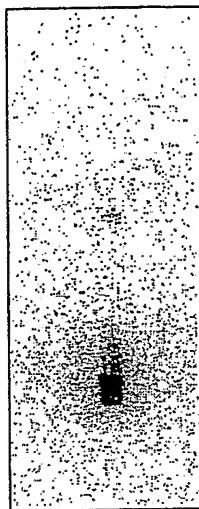
Fig. 5

## miR-1a      miR-122a

ht kd lv pc sp



ht kd lv pc sp



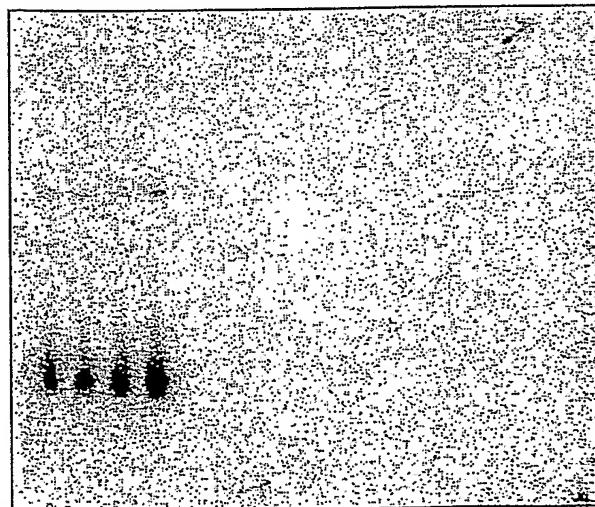
— L

— 21-nt

## miR-124a

brain

rbmb cx cb ht lg lv co si pc sp kd sm st H



— L

— 21-nt



— tRNAs

Fig. 5 (cont.)

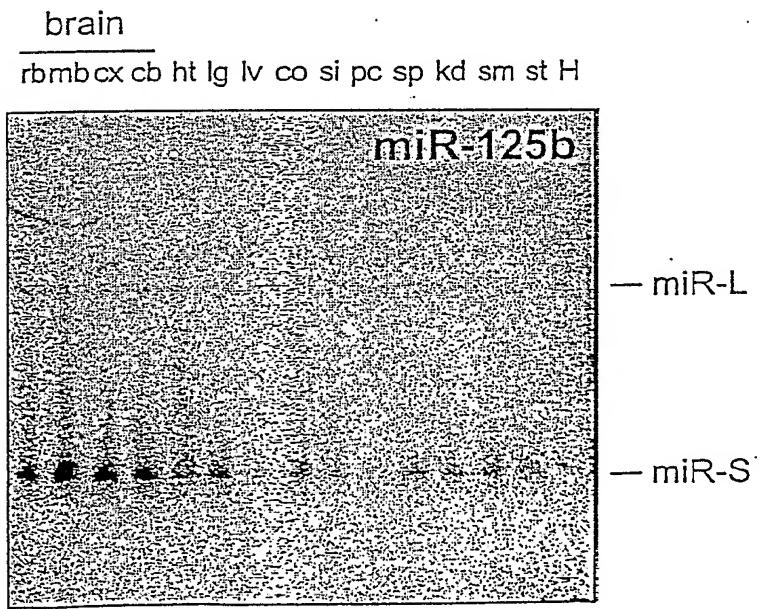
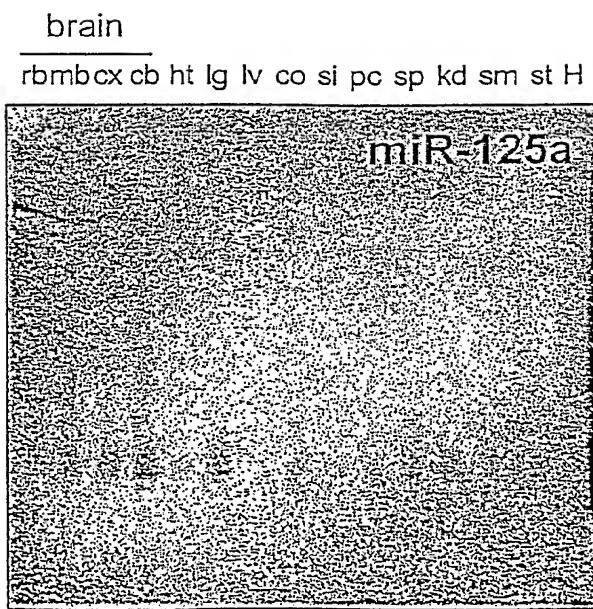
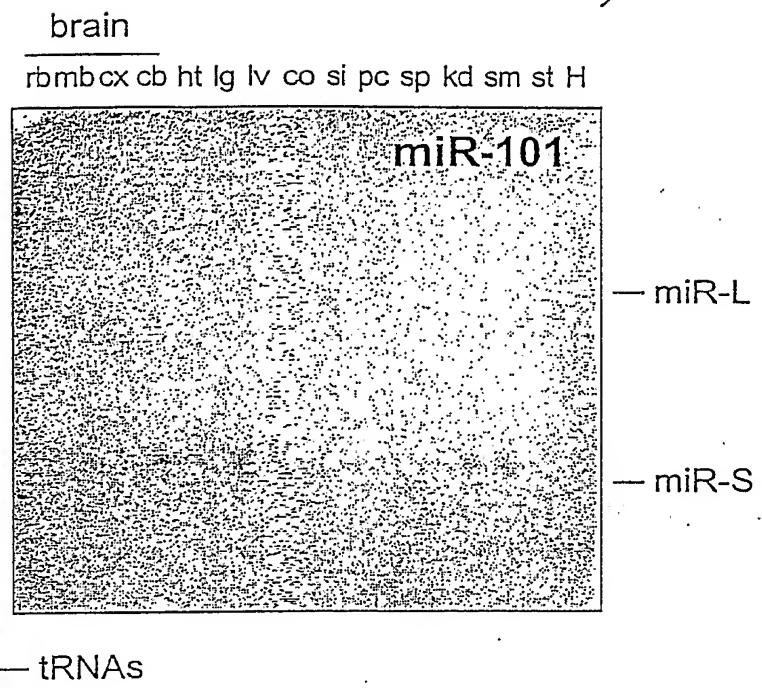
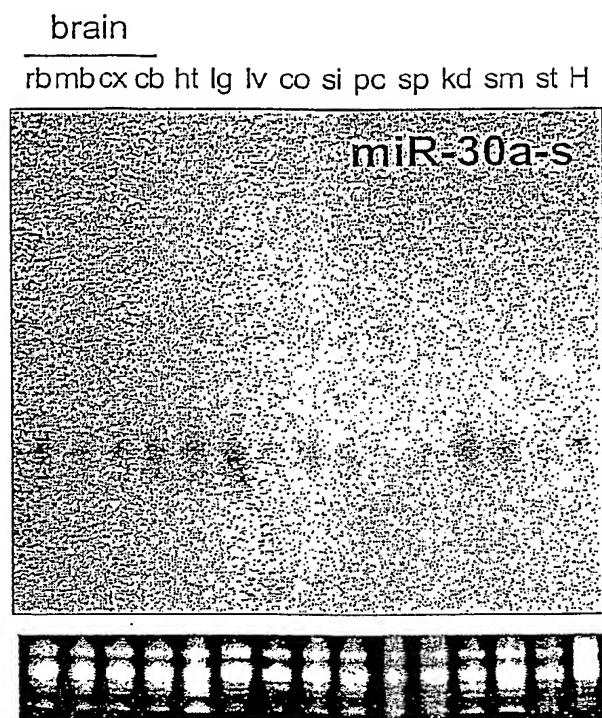


Fig. 5 (cont.)

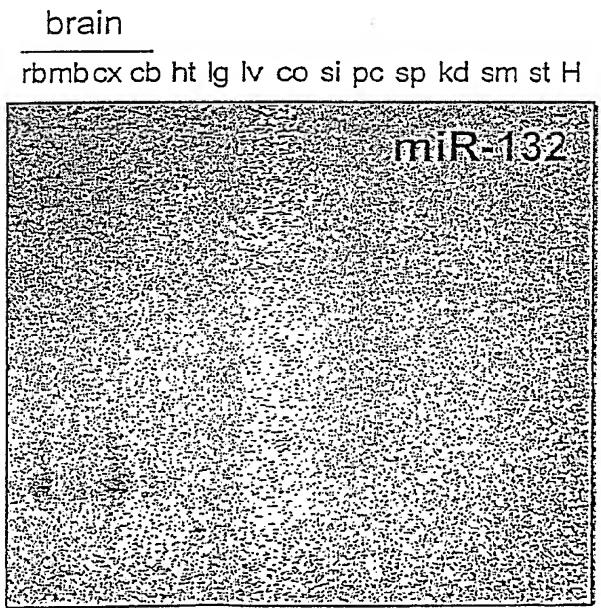
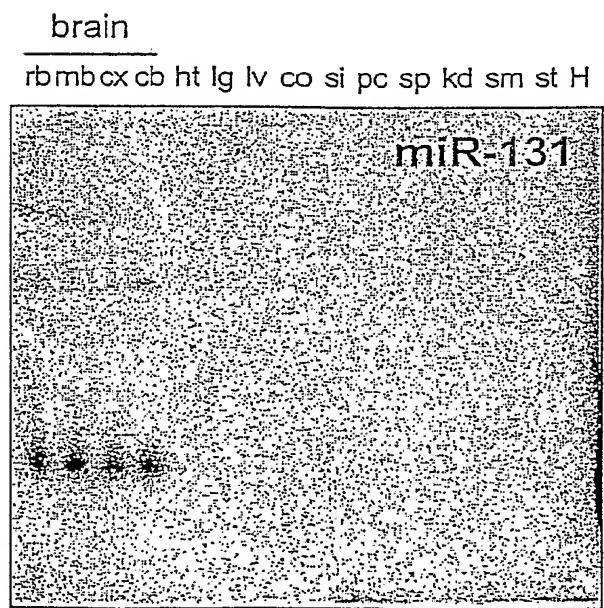
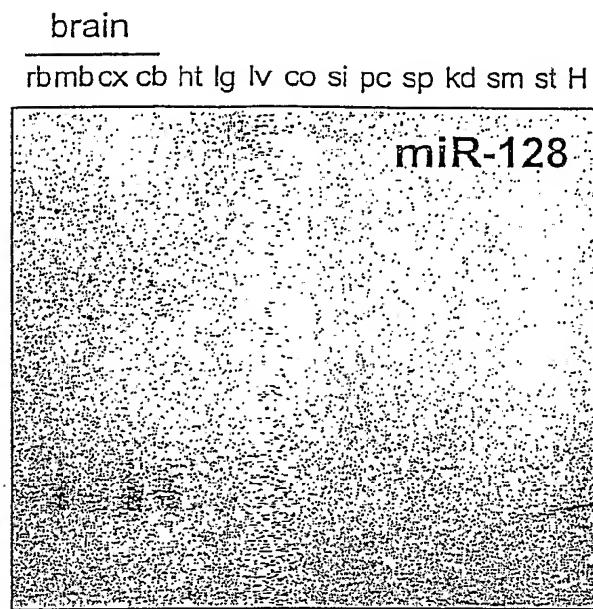
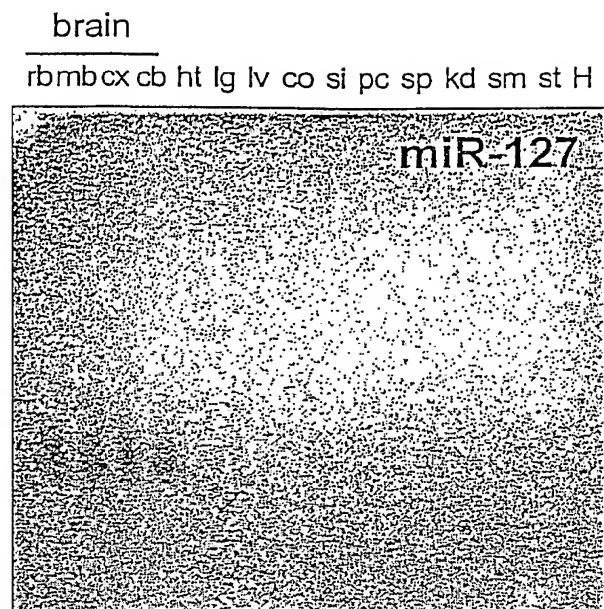
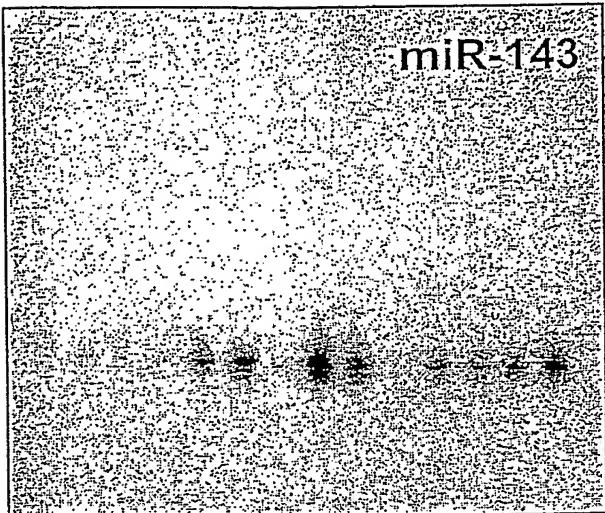


Fig. 5 (cont.)

brain

rb mbcx cb ht lg lv co si pc sp kd sm st H



— miR-L

— miR-S

*Fig. 6***A***C. elegans* lin-4

UCCCUGAGACCUC--AAG-UGUGA

*D. melanogaster* miR-125

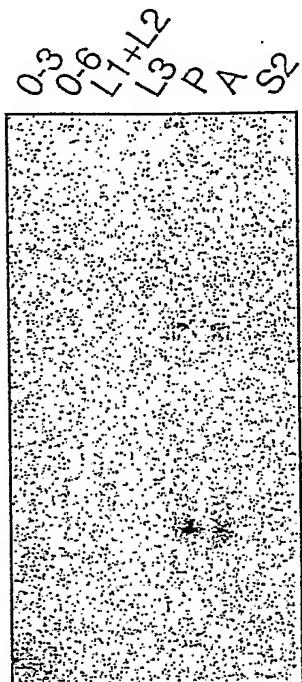
UCCCUGAGACCCU--AACUUGUGA

*M. musculus/H. sapiens* miR-125b

UCCCUGAGACCCU--AACUUGUGA

*M. musculus/H. sapiens* miR-125a

UCCCUGAGACCCUUUAACCUGUGA

**B**

7

name	sequence	structure
let-7a-1	UGAGGUAGGUAGGUAGGUU	UG CAC UGGGA GAGGUAGGUAGGUAGGUU GUG AUCCU UUCUGUCAUCAUCAUCA CA -
let-7a-2	UGAGGUAGGUAGGUAGGUU	UU AGG GAG UAG AGGUUGGUAGGUU UCC UUC AUC UCCGACAUGUCAA U- G C
let-7a-3	UGAGGUAGGUAGGUAGGUU	U GGG GAGGUAGGUAGGUAGGUU UCC UUCUGUCAUCAUCAUCAUCA U
let-7b	UGAGGUAGGUAGGUAGGUU	GG CGGG GAGGUAGGUAGGUAGGUU UC GUCC UUCGUCAUCCAAACAUCAUCA --
let-7c	UGAGGUAGGUAGGUAGGUU	A GC UCCGGG GAG UAG AGGUUGGUAGGUU CG AGGUUC UUC AUC UCCAACAUCAUCA --
let-7d	AGAGGUAGGUAGGUAGGUU	A CCUAGGA GAGGUAGGUAGGUU AUAGGUU GGAUUCU UUCCGUCCAGC UAUCAA -
let-7e	UGAGGUAGGUAGGUAGGUU	C CC GGG GAG UAGAGGUAGGUAGGUU GG CCC UUC AUCCUCGGCAUCAUCA A CU G

Fig. 7 (cont.)

let-7f-1	UGAGGUAGGUAGAUUGUAUAGUU	AGU UCAG AGUC CC-	GAGGUAGGUAGAUUGUAUAGUU UUCGUUAUCUAAACAUAAUCAAA GAGGACUNG	----- GGGUAG UCCAUU A UU
let-7f-2	UGAGGUAGGUAGAUUGUAUAGUU	U GGCACC - UAGA	CUGUGGCA GAGGUAGGUAGUAGUU GGCACC UUCGUCAUCUGACAUAAUCAA - UAGA	----- UCAU UAGGG A GGUUC C ACCC
let-7g	UGAGGUAGGUAGUUUAGUACAGUA	A U CC GG A - C	CC GGC GAGGUAGGUAGUAGUU GG CCG UUCGUCAUCUGACAUAA A - C	UGAGG GU GU GG - C
let-7h	UGAGGUAGGUAGGUAGACAGUU			
let-7i	UGAGGUAGGUAGUUUUGGUU	U GAUCG - U	CUGGGC GAGGUAGGUAGUAGUU UUCGUCAUCUGACAUAA - UAGAGGUG	----- U GGGU U GG - UUAC
miR-1	UGGA AUGGUAAAGAAGUAUGGAG	A UUC GAG - UCUAAG	UUUGAGA GUUCCAUGGUUC CGAGGUAGAAG - A	C A A GU G A ACU
miR-1b	UGGA AUGGUAAAGAAGUAUGUAA	A ACUCU A - A	UGGGA ACAUACUUCUUAU ACUCU UGUAUGAAG - CGA	----- AC UGG C AUC C GU
				AL449263.5

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-1c	UGGAUGUAAAGAAGUAGUAC	
miR-1d	UGGAUGUAAAGAAGUAGUAAU	C GC UGAAACC GUUUGGGA ACAUACUUCUUUAAU CCUAU U GGACUUU <u>UGUAUGAAGAAUGUA</u> GGUAU G A- CGAUUC
miR-2a-1	UAUCACAGCCAGCUUUGAUGC	- - A AUUUC UU GUUGGCUC UCAAAG UGGUUGUGA AUGC CGC \ CGAUUCGAG AGUUC ACCGACACU UACG GCG U U G A ----- CG
miR-2a-2	UAUCACAGCCAGCUUUGAUGC	A C C --- GAUAC AUUC AGC UCAUCHAG UGGUUGUGAU AUG UAGG UCG <u>AGUAGUUU</u> ACCGACACUUAAC C A - CG GCAAC
miR-2b-1	UAUCACAGCCAGCUUUGAGGC	U UG - A C ----- U CU CAAC UCUUAAAG UGGC GUGA AUGUUG C GG GUUG AGGAGUUC ACCG CACU UAUAC C C CG G A AUACU A
miR-2b-2	UAUCACAGCCAGCUUUGAGGC	A - A UUU--- CUU UGUGUC UCUUCAAG UGGUUGUGA AUG GC U AGGCAG GAGGAGUUC ACCGACACU UAC CG U C G A A UAUAC UAU
miR-3	UCACUGGCCAAGUGUGUCUCA	C C G U UUCA GAUC UGGGAUGCAU UGGU CAGU AUGU \ CUAG ACUCUGUGUG <u>AACG GUCA</u> UACA A A G C CUCU

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-4	AUAAAGCUAGACAAUUGA	U UUU C C GG UU UUGCAAU AGUUUC UGGU GUC AGC UUA UGAUU \ GGGUUG UUGAAG ACCA CAG UCG AAU ACUGG U C <u>UU</u> A A A --- CC
miR-5	AAGGAAACGAUCGUUGUUAUG	UA--- C AGUUGU GC <u>AAAGGAA</u> GAUCGUUGUUAUG \\ CG UUUCUUU UUAGUGACACUUAAC U CAGUA --- AAUCU
miR-6-1	UAUCACAGUGGCCUGUUUUUU	A- C AG UAAUA UUUA UGUAGAGGGAAUAGUUGUGUGUG UGUA U \\ AAAU AUGUUUUUCUUGUGGGUGACAC AUAU A U CC UU CU UACCA
miR-6-2	UAUCACAGUGGCCUGUUUUUU	C UU UG C U - G UAACC AAGGAAC C CUG UGAUUA UA UU A GUUGG <u>UUUCUUG</u> G <u>GAC</u> ACUUAU AU AA A U <u>UC GU</u> --- C C A
miR-6-3	UAUCACAGUGGCCUGUUUUUU	A A U AAAC CAAA AGAAGGGAACGGGUUGUG UGAUGUAG UUG \\ GUUU UUUUUUCUUGUGGGUGAC ACUUAUU AAC U G --- U ACUC
miR-7	UGGAAGACUAGUGAUUUGUUGU	U U U U --- UGGUC GAGUGC AU CGGUAGAC AG GAUUU <u>UGUUGUU</u> \\ UUUACGGU GGC AU UC UUCUG UC CUA AA ACAUA AA U C --- U C UA --- UGGUU
miR-8	UAAUACUGUCAGGUAAAGAUGUC	CUGUUC - G C UCCUU AAGGACAU ACAUCUU ACC GGCAG AUUAGA \\ UUCUGUG UGUAGAA UGG CUGUC <u>AAUCU</u> U CCUGC- A A CAAUA

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-9	ucuuugguuauuuaggcuguauga	- <u>U</u> <u>UAU</u> <u>G</u> - <u>GAU</u> GCUA UGUUG <u>CUUUGGU</u> CUAGCU UAUUGA GU A CGAU AUAAU GAAGCCA GAUCGA AUACU CA A U U UUC A G AUA
miR-10	ACCCUGUAGAUCCGAAUUGU	CU - <u>G</u> <u>U</u> <u>AUACU</u> CCACGU ACC <u>CU</u> <u>UAGA</u> <u>CCGAAUUGGUUUU</u> A GGUGUG UGG GA AUCU GGCUUAAACAGGA G UU A G U AUUC
miR-11	CAUCACAGUCUGAGGUUCUGC	U UCU CCC U ACU GCACUUG CAAAGAACUU CUGUGA GCG GU U CGUGAGU GUUCUUGAG GACACU CGC CG A C UCU A--- - AAA
miR-12	UGAGUAUUACAUCAUGGUACUGGU	<u>UG</u> <u>U</u> <u>C</u> - <u>GCCUU</u> UACGGU AGUUAU ACAU AGGUACUGGU GU A GUGGCCG UCAUA UGUA UCUAUGACCA CA A CA C - A ACCUA
miR-13a	UAUCACAGCCAUUUGUAGAGU	U C - A UC-- CU UACG AACUC UCAAAAG GGUUGUGA AUG GA A GUGC UUGAG AGUUUU <u>CCGACACU</u> UAC CU U U U A A UCAU AU
miR-13b-1	UAUCACAGCCAUUUGUAGAGU	<u>UG</u> <u>U</u> <u>ACU</u> <u>UAUU</u> CCA UGGUAAAAG UUGUGA UAUG C GGU AGGAGUUUAC GACACU AUAC A UUG UUG --- UAAC
miR-13b-2	UAUCACAGCCAUUUGUAGAGU	UAUU G A <u>GUUA</u> <u>UU</u> AAC CGUCAAAAG CUGUGA UGUGGA U UUG <u>GCAGUUUAC</u> <u>GACACU</u> AUACUU G GU--- A --- CA

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-14	UCAGUCUUUUUCUCUCCUA	C C C C GCUU UGUGGGAG GAGA GGGGACU ACUGU AUAUCCUC CUCU UUUCUGA UGUA A U U C AAUU
miR-15a	UAGCAGCACAUAAUGGUUGUG	CCUUG GCA GGAAC CGAC UAAAAACUC UA U C A ACA
miR-15b	UAGCAGCACAUCAUGGUUUA CA	CUG ACCAGCA AU AUGGUUU CAU CU GAU UCGUCGU UA UACUAAG GUA GA C U U C - ACU
miR-16	UAGCAGCACGUAAUAUUGGC G	AG C - A GUCAGC UGC UUAGCAGC GU AAUAUUGG CAGUUG AUG AGUCGUUCGUG CA UUAUGACC GA A U A U UAA
miR-16	only different precursor	UC GU CACU AGCAGCAG CA GUGA UCGUCGU GU UU CA A A C AG AAU GU UU ACC CA AUU U A A AUA
miR-17	ACUGGAGUGAAGGCACUUGU	GA GUCA AUUAUGU CAGU UAUUACG AUG GG A G - U GUG AAGG GCAU UAG GCAG UAG ACGG UUCC CGUG AUC CGUC AUC UC U A C - UA AU
miR-18	UAAGGUGCAUCUAGUGGAGA UA	

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-19a	UGUGCAAAUCUAUGCAAAACUGA	U U GCAG CC CUGUUGUUUUGCAUG CGUC GG GGUAG <u>U</u> CAAAACGUAC C U <u>U</u> A YUG AAG	--- UUGCAC AACGUG UA	--- UACA AUGU AAG	AGA /
miR-19b-1	UGUGCAAAUCUAUGCAAAACUGA	UU CACUG CUAUGGUAGUUUUGCA GG UUUGCA GUGAU GGUGUCAG <u>U</u> CAAAACGU CC AACGU --- A U --- UC UCA	--- UUC A	UGUGUG CAGC GUUG A	
miR-19b-2	UGUGCAAAUCUAUGCAAAACUGA	CUAC ACAUUG UUACAAUUAUGUUUUGCA GG UUUGCAU UGUAU AGUGGUAG <u>U</u> CAAAACGU CC AACGU --- A U --- UCGG G	--- UUC A	UUC A	U GCGUUA A UGUAU U
miR-20	UAAAGUGGUUAUAGUGCAGGUAG	C A- GUAG ACU AAGUGGUUAUAGUGCAG UAG UG U CGUC UGA UUCAGGAGUAUACGU AUC AU A A AA -	G UAG U A	UU UG U U	
miR-21	UAGCUUAUCAGACUGAUGUGA	UGUCGGYAGGUUAUC GACUG UGUUG CUGU G ACAGUCUGUCGGGUAG CUGAC ACACG GGU C A AA -	A A C U	AA AA U U	
miR-22	AAGCUGCCAGUUGAAGAACUGU	U CC GGC GAG GCGAGUAGUUCUUCAG UGGCA GCUUUA GU CCG CUC CGUUG <u>U</u> CAAGAAGUU ACCGU CGAAAU CG U C- G A	U A	U A G U	CCUG / A ACCC
miR-23a	AUCACAUUUGCCAGGAUUCC	C C GG CGG UGGGG UUCCUGG GAUG GAUUG CC GCC ACCU AGGGACC UUAC CUAAAC A A U G A A	- G U A	G C U A	GU C U A ACUG

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-23b	AUCACAUUGCCAGGAUUACCAC	C U --- C GUGACU GG UGC UGG GUUCCUGGA UG UGAUUU U CC ACC ACC UAGGGACCGU AC ACUAAA G A C AU U - AUUAGA
miR-24-1	UGGCUCAGUUUCAGGAAACAG	G G A UA UCUCAU CUCC GU CCU CUGAGCUA UCAGU U GAGG CA GGA GACUUGACU GGUCA U A A C C- CACAUU
miR-24-2	UGGCUCAGUUUCAGGAAACAG	CC CG CU- AA-- UU CUCUG UCC UGC ACUGAGCUG ACACAG GGGAC AGG ACG UGACUGGU UGUGUU G A- -- ACU CACA UG
miR-25	CAUUGCACUUGUCUCGGCUGA	A AG G UU G UG ACG GGCC GUGUGG AGGC GAGAC G GCAAU CUGG C CCGG CGUGAC UCUG CUCUG C CGUUA GGUC U C AG G UU A CG CCG
miR-26a	UUCAAGUAUCCAGGAUAGGUU	- G U U G CAG AGGCC GUG CCUCGU CAAGUAA CCAGGAUAGGCCUGU G UCCGG CGC GGGCA GUUCAUU GGUCUUAUCCGGUA U G A C - ACCC
miR-26b	UUCAAGUAUUCAGGAUAGGUU	GA - U UC UGUG CCGG CCC AGU CAAGUAA AGGAUAGGUU U GGCC GGG UCG GUUCAUU UCUUGUCCGAC C AG C - CC CUGU
miR-27a	UUCACAGUGGUUAAGUUCGGU	A A A U G UCCAC CUG GG GC GGGCUUAGCUGCU GUGAGCA GG GAC CC CG CUGUAUCGGUGA CACUUGU CU A C C C - G GAACC

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-27b	UUCACAGUGGUAAAGUUCUG	AUUG AGGUGGAGGUUAGGUG UCACGUCUUGUAUCGGU GA--	UGAU GUGACAG CACUUGGU UC--	U UGG GCC U
miR-28	AAGGAGCUCACAGUCUAUUGAG	C GGU CUUGCCCC UCA GGACGGGAG C A G	A AGGAGCUCACAGUCUA UCCUCGAGGUUAGAU AC C CCUU CU	U UG GCC U
miR-29a	CUAGGACCAUCUGAAUUCGGUU	UUU AUGACUGAUUUC UAUUGGCCAAG UCU	C UGGUGUUAGAG ACCACGA UCU - UUAAU	UCAAU AGAG A A
miR-29b	UAGCACCAUUUGAAUUCAGUGUU	A AGGA UCUU G	U AUGGUGUCA UACCA U - - UUAGUG	GU UAGAU GAC U - UUAGUG
miR-29c	UAGCACCAUUUGAAUUCGGUua			
miR-30a-s	UGUAAAACAUCCUCGACUGGAAGC	A GCG CGU C	UC GACUGGAAGCU CUGACUUUCGG - GUAAA C	----- A GUG CAC G C
miR-30a-s	CUUUCAGUUCGGGAUGUUUGCAGC	A GCG CGU C	UC GACUGGAAGCU CUGACUUUCGG - GUAGA C	----- A GUG CAC G C

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-30b	UGUAAACAUCCUACACUCAGC	U - UCAUA AUGUAAACAUCC <u>ACA</u> CUCAGCUG C UGCAUUUGAAG <u>U</u> GGGUCGGU A - A UGGGU
miR-30c	UGUAAACAUCCUACACUCAGC	UACU <u>U</u> <u>ACA</u> GUGGAA AGA GUAAACA CCU CUCUCAGCU A UCU CAUUGU GGA GAGGGUAGA G UUCU C A-- AAGAU human
miR-30d	UGUAAACAUCCCGACUGGAAG	U <u>U</u> <u>CCC</u> GUAGA GU GU GUAAACAU <u>G</u> ACUGGAAGCU C CA CG CGUUGUAG CUGACUUUCGA A U U A-- AUCGAC chr8 human
miR-31	GGCAAGAUGCUGGCAUAGCUG	GA <u>G</u> <u>C</u> U- GAA GGAGAG <u>GGCAA</u> AUG UGGCAUAGC GUU C CCUUC CCGUU UAC ACCGUAUCG CAA U UA A A UC GGG
miR-32	UAUUGCACAUUACUAAGUUGC	U - UU C GGAGAUUUGCACAU <u>ACUAAGUUGCAU</u> G GU A CUUUUAUGUGUGUG UGAUUAACGU C CG C - A UC G
miR-33	GUGCAUUGUAGUUGCAUUG	A <u>UU</u> UUCU UG CUGUGGUGCAUUG <u>G</u> GCAUUGCAUG GG GACACUACGUGACA C UGAAACGUAC CC G C UU ---- AU
miR-99a	ACCCGUAGAUCCGAUCUUGU	A <u>UC</u> <u>U</u> G AAG CAUA ACCCGUAGA <u>CGA</u> CUCUGUG UG U GUGU UGGGUUAUCU GCU GAACGC GC G C UU C - CAG

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-99b	CACCCGUAGAACCGGACCUUGCG	CC GGCAC ACCCGUAGA CUCUG UGGGUGUCU CC	AC CGA CU GU C ACAC	C UGCGG GG ACGCC CU C G U	C
miR-101	UACAGUACUGUGAUAAUCUGA			UCAGUUUAUCACAGUGGUG AGUCAAUAGGUGCUAUGAC	A GUCCA U U AAAUC
miR-122a	UGGAGUGUGACAAUGGUGUUUG	GG AGCUGU UGAUA AA	C AGUGUGA UCACACU A	UGUCC A A UAUCA	A A A woodchuck
miR-122b	UGGAGUGUGACACAAUGGUGUUUG				
miR-122a,b	UGGAGUGUGACAAUGGUGUUUG				
miR-123	CAUUAUUACUUUGGUACCGG	A UGAC GC ACUG CG G	A CAUUAUACU GUAAUUAUGAG C C	U UGGUACG GCCAUGC U UCAA-	C UG ACU C U U woodchuck
miR-124a*	UUUAGGCACGGGGUGUAUGCCA	- C A -	- C G GAGA	A GA CCUUGAUU GCA G AC -	UAUUG U C CAUAU

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-124b	UUAAGGCACGGGGUGAUGC	CC A GA UAAUG CUCU GUGUUCAC GCG CCUUGAUU GAGA CGUAAGUG CGC GAAUUA U AC G AC CAUAC AC021518
miR-125a	UCCCCUGAGACCCUUUAACCUUGG potential lin-4 ortholog	C C C UA CUGGGU CCUGAGA CCUU ACCUGUGA GUCCCG GGGUUCU GGAG UGGACACU A U -- GGGA U
miR-125b	UCCCCUGAGACCCUAACUUGUGA potential lin-4 ortholog	UC C A GG- U GCCUAG CCUGAGA CCU ACUUGUGA CGGAUC GGGUUCU GGA UGAACACU CA U C ACA A AUG U
miR-126	UCGUACCCUGAGUAAUAUGC	A U U CGCUG C GC CAUUAUACUU UGGUACCG UGA A CG GUAAAUAUGAG GCCAUGC ACU C C U U CCAA- U
miR-127	UCGGAUCCGUCUGAGCUUGGU	A U G G C -- AG CC GCC GCU AAGGUCAGA GG UCUGAU UC GG UGG CGG UCCGAGUCU CC AGGCUA AG A C U - G U CU AA
miR-128	UCACAGUGAACCGGUUCUUUU	UUC UAG CU U GUUGGA GGGCGG CACUGU GAGAGGU U CGACU U CUCUGC GUGACA CUCUUA A UUU CAA -- C
miR-129	CUUUUUUCGGUCUGGGUUGC	- C CU G UUCCU C GGAU CUUUUG GGU GGGCUU CUG CU A UCUA GAAAAAC CCA CCCGAA GAC GA A U C U G UGAU- C human

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-130	CAGUGCAUGUUAAAAGGGC	- C GA GCUCUUUU ACAUUGUGCU CU CU <u>CGGGAAAA</u> UGUACGUGA GA A U <u>CGCAU</u> G	A GUCAAC
miR-131	UAAAGCUAGAUAAACCGAAAGU	G C GUU UUAU UUUGGUUAUCUAGCU UAUAGAG GU U CAA AA <u>UG</u> AAGCCAAUAGAU <u>CGA</u> AUACUU UG U	G U A A A <u>AG</u> C G
miR-132	UAACAGUCUACAGCCAUUGUCGU	A GGGC ACCGUGGCC CCCG <u>UGGUACCGA</u> <u>CGAU</u> CAU	UUC G- G- GUGGUACU UGG \ CUGACAAUGG GCC A AG A
miR-133	UUGGUCCCCUUCUAAACCAAGCUGU	A AA U A GCUA AGCGUGGU AA GG ACCAAUUC CGAU <u>UCGACCA</u> UU CC <u>UGGUUAG</u> U G AC C C AC C CG G ACU- UC	GCCUC GU GCGU AC GGGU GUGACUGG <u>UG</u> <u>CCA AGGG</u> UCCC AC CACUGAUC AC GGU UCCC UG U AC C CG G ACU- UC
miR-134	UGUGACUGGUUGACCAGAGGA	UU CUAUGGGCUUU AUUCCUAYUGA GGGCCGAGG UAGGGAUAUACU U- CGCUCG	UUCUAU
miR-135	UAUGGCCUUUUUUCCUAUGGAA	C GAGGACUC AUUUG UGAUGAUGGA CUUCUGAG UAAAC GCUACUACCU U	UU UUCU U- CGAA
miR-136	ACUCCAUUUGUUUGAUGGAA	-	UUCU

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-137	UAUUGCUUAGAAUACGGUAG	G G A - GA CUUCGGU ACG GUAUUCUUGGGGG UAAUA CG \ GGAGCUG UGC CAUAAGAAUUCGUU AUUGU GC U A G - U AU
miR-138	AGCGUGGUUGUGAAUC	--- UCA AC- C CG CAGCU <u>GGUGUUGUGAA</u> GGCC GAG AG C GUUGG CCACAGCACUU 'UCGGC UUC UC A GA UA- CCA - CU
miR-139	UCUACAGUGCACGUGUCU	G UAUUCUA CAG GC CGUGUCUCCAGU GUGGC \ CA AUGAGG UGC CG GCGAGGGUCC U - U C - GAGGC human
miR-140	AGUGGUUUUACCCUUAUGGUAG	- A UU UC CCUG CC GUGGUUUUACCCU <u>UGGUAGG</u> ACG A GGAC GG CACCAAGAUGGGA ACCAUCU UGU U A - C - CG
miR-141	AAACACUGUCUGGUAAAGAUGG	U --- U AU GAAG GGG CCAUCUU CCAG GCAGUGUUGG GGUU \ CCC <u>GGUAGAA</u> GGUC <u>UGUCACAAUC</u> UCGA U - AU - C- AGUA
miR-142s	CAUAAAAGGAAAGCACUAC	AC- CCAUAAAAGUAG AAGCACUAC UAA--- G GGUAUUUCAUC UUUGUGAUG CA C GUA C UGGGAG C
miR-142as*	UGUAGUGUUUCCUACUUUAGG	AC- CCAUAAAAGUAG AAGCACUAC UAA--- G GGUAUUUCAUC UUUGUGAUG GU A GUA C UGGGAG C

Fig. 7 (cont.)

new	AUAAAGCGAGCAAAAGGUUGU	G G G C GG C AU UGAC GGCAGGUUUU GC CG UUAUAC UG \/ ACUG UGUUUCGAAAAA CG GC AAUAG AC G G A AG C UC AL049829.4
miR-143	UGAGAUGAAGCACUGUAGCuca UUAGAUGAAGCACUGUAG	G G G U - AG CCUGAG UGGAGUGGUU CAUCUC GG UC U GGACUC AUGUCACGA GUAGAG CU AG U G A U G GG AC008681.7
miR-144	UACAGUAUAGAUGAUACUAG	G A A - GU GGCUGG AUAVCAUC UAUACUGUA GUUU G CUGAUC UGUAGUAG AUUAUGACAU CAGA A A - CA GU
miR-145	GUCCAGUUUUCCAGGAUCCUU	C U C U C U C U CUCA GG CAGU UU CCAGGAAUCCU GAGU UC GUCA AA GGUCUUAAGGGG C - UU U A UAGAAU
miR-146	UGAGAACUGAAUUCAUUGGUUU	CU C U C U A U A U C AGCU GAGAACUGAAAU CAUGGGUU A UCCG A UUCUUGACUUA GUUCAG A C- A ACUGU
miR-147	GUUCGUCCAAUUCUUCUGCC	A- CAA ACA --- GA AAUCUA AGA CAUUCUGCACAC CCA \/ UUAGAU UCU GUAAAGGUGUGUG GGU C human CG UC- ACCGAA AU
miR-148	UCAGUGCACUACAGAACUUUGU	- A- CC - AGU GAGGCCAAAGGUUCUG AG CACU CUG \/ CUCUGUUCAAGAC UC GUGA CUGA GAU A human A AC --- A AGU

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-149	UCUGGCCUCGUGUCUUCACUCC	GGCUCUG <u>C</u> <u>G</u> <u>A</u> GUG G UCCUC <u>GU</u> <u>UCUUC</u> <u>CUC</u> UUU U UCCCCC GAG CA GGAGG GAGGG GAG C G A G - AG- C
miR-150	UCUCCCAACCCUUCGUACAGUGU	CCCUGUCUCCCA <u>AC</u> <u>U</u> <u>UG-</u> UG GGGAUAGGGGGU <u>CCU</u> <u>GUACCA</u> <u>CUG</u> <u>UG</u> CC - CCA UC
miR-151	CUAGACUGAGGUCCUUGAGGU	C C <u>CA</u> <u>CA</u> <u>UGUCU</u> CCUG CCUGAGGAGCU CAGCUUAGUA <u>GU</u> GGAC <u>GAGGUUCUCGG</u> <u>GAC</u> <u>GUCAU</u> CCCUC A - A -
miR-152	UCAGUGCAUGACAGAACUUGG	CCGGGCCUAGGUUCUGU AU CACU GACU GCG G GGCCCGGGGUUCAAGACAU <u>GU</u> <u>UGA</u> <u>CUGA</u> CGA G G C - - - - G
miR-153	UUGCAUAGUCACAAAGUGA	- GU A- AAU CAGUG UCAUUUUUGUGAU UGGAGCU <u>GU</u> <u>GU</u> GUUAC <u>AGUGAAACACUG</u> <u>ACGUUGA</u> CG A U AU CC AGU
miR-154	UAGGUUAUCCGUGUGGCCUUCG	U - CCU -- UUU GAAGAUAGGUUA CCGUGU <u>UG</u> <u>UGC</u> UUUUUAUCCAGU GGCACA AC AGUG A U U UAAGC UUU
miR-155 [BIC- <u>RNA</u> ]	UUAUUGCUAAUUGUGAUAGGGG	U U <u>A</u> <u>U</u> <u>UGGCC</u> CUGUUAUCCUAU <u>G</u> <u>G</u> <u>UAGGGGUU</u> GACAUUACGAAU <u>U</u> <u>C</u> <u>AUCCUCAG</u> <u>U</u> - C - UCAGUC

Fig. 7 (cont.)

name	sequence	structure
miR-C1	AACAUCAACGCUUGUGUGAGU	<pre> U A   U   CU   A   GGGAUUCA CCA GG ACA UCAACG GUCCCCUG GUUU GGU CC UGU AGUUGC CAGCCAC CAAA U A   C   -   -   AAAACAAA </pre>
miR-C2	UUUGGCAAUGGUAGAACUCACA	<pre> UU   UGG   UCA   UAAGGU ACCAU UGGCAA UAGAAC CACCGG UGGU AACCGGU AUUCUUG GUGGCC UC   CAG   --- CAGGGU </pre>
miR-C3	UAUGGCACUGGUAGAAUUCACUG	<pre> G   AC--- GA   --- AC CUGU UAUGGC UGGUA AUUCACUG UGA A GACA AUACCG GCCAU UAUGUGAC ACU G A   GGAA   --- UG   CU </pre>
miR-C4	CUUUCUUGGGCUCUGGGCUCUGU	<pre> -   C   CU   G   UUUU C UGGAU CUUUUUGG GGGCUU CUG   CU G AUCUA GAAAAC CCA CCCGAA GAC   GA A U   C   UU   G   UGAU C </pre>
miR-C5	UGGACGGAGAACUGAUAGGU	<pre> U   C   AG   -   UG CCU UCCUAUCA UUUUCC CCAGC UUUG A GGA GGGAAUAGU AAGAGG GUUG GAAU C U   C   CA   U   CU </pre>
miR-C6	UGGAGAGAAAGGCCAGUUC	<pre> A   G   AU UC AGGGAUUGGAG GAAAG CAGUUCUCUG GG C UUCUUGGUUCU CUUUC GUCCCCAC CC C -   G   --- UC </pre>

Fig 7 (cont.)

name	sequence	structure
miR-C7	CAAGAAUUCUCCUUTGGCCU	<pre>           U   UU   UCUAU           \   \   \   U ACUUCCAAAGAAUUC <u>CCUU</u> <u>GGCCU</u>   U UGAAGGGUUUUAAAG <u>GGAA</u> <u>CCCGAA</u>   U           U-   UUUUAU </pre>
miR-C8	UCGGUGUCUUGUGUUGCAGCCG	<pre>           A   A   C   CGCUGC           UC  GGU CAACACAGGAC CGGG           GG  CCGA <u>GUUGUGUUCUG</u> <u>GCUC</u>   C           -   C   \   U   CCCAGU </pre>
miR-C9	UAACACUGUCUGGUAAACGAUGU	<pre>           -   C   UU   UUG           GGGCAUC <u>UUACCGGACAGUG</u> <u>UGGA</u> <u>UC</u>           CUUGUAG <u>AAUGGUCUGUAC</u> <u>AUCU</u> <u>AG</u>           C   A   C-   UUC </pre>
miR-C10	CAUCCCUUGCAUGGGGGGG	<pre>           CA  UC   GU   UGAGCUC           CA  <u>CCUUGGCAUG</u> <u>GGAGGG</u>   U           AGG GU   GGGACGUAC <u>CCUCCC</u>   C           AC  UU   AC   CAAAGU </pre>
miR-C11	GUGGCCUACUGGAGCUGACAUCA	<pre>           G   G   A   UA   UCUAU           CUCC GU   CCU <u>CUGAGGUGA</u> <u>UCAGU</u>           GAGG CA   GGA <u>GACUTUGACU</u> <u>GGUCA</u>   U           A   A   C   C-   CACACU </pre>
miR-C12	UGAUUAUGUUUGAUAUUUGGU	<pre>           U-   UA---   UU           CUGUG <u>GAUAUGUUUGAUUAU</u> <u>GUUG</u>   \           GACAU <u>UUUAUACGAACUUAU</u> <u>CUAAU</u>   A           CC   UCAAC   UU </pre>

Fig. 7 (cont.)

name	sequence	structure
miR-C13	CAACGGAAUCCAAAGCAGCU	<pre> C AGCGGG <u>AACGGAAUCC</u> <u>AA</u> <u>GCA</u> GCG UCGUUC UGGCUUAGG UU CGUCGAC C - CA - CAU GA A C - CAU C G </pre>
miR-C14	CUGACCUAUGAUAUUGACA	<pre> C UGACCUAUG <u>AAUUG</u> <u>CAGCCAG</u> ACUGGAUAC UUAAAC GUCCGUC C C UCCCCUC </pre>
miR-C15	UACCCACAGGGUAGAACCGGA	<pre> - G UCCUG CGG UGGUUTUACCU UGGUAGG ACG A AGGAC GGC ACCAAGAUGGGA ACCAUCU UGU U A - - C - - CG </pre>
miR-C16	AACUGGCCUACAAAGUCCAG	<pre> A U C A A AGU GAG GCUGGG CUUUG GGGC AG UGAG G CUC <u>UGACCC</u> <u>GAAAC</u> <u>UCCG</u> UC <u>ACUU</u> U C U A G A GAC </pre>
miR-C17	UGUAACAGCAACUCCAUGGGA	<pre> U A G G G G G U GUACAGCA CUCCAU <u>UGGA</u> CG G UAGUCU CAUTUGCGU GAGGUG ACCU GGC C U C - UA U </pre>
miR-C18	UAGCAGGCACAGAAUUUGGC	<pre> U A G G C A G C A G A G G G G G G G G AGGAGGAGGUC AAUAUUUGGCA UUAUAACCGU CU U G G - - GAG </pre>

Fig 7 (cont.)

name	sequence	structure
miR-C19	UAGGUAGUUCAUGUUGGG	<pre>           A   A   C   GCCUGGG           GGU   GUU   AUGUUGGG           CCA   CAA   UACAAAC           C   C   U   ACAAGUCU </pre>
miR-C20	UTUCACCACCUUCUCCACCA	<pre>           C   A   CA   GA   -   A           GGUUGGG GGGU GAGGGG GUGG GGU AAG G           CCGGUACG CCCC CUCUCC CACU CCA UUC C           A   C   AC   UC   C   U </pre>
miR-C21	GGUCCAGAGGGAGAUAGG	<pre>           G   -   C   G   U   UUCCUG           UCAU U G   UC A AGGGAGA AGG           AGUAA U AG U UCUCUUCU UCC           A   A   A   A   -   UUUUUA </pre>
miR-C22	CCCAGUGUCA GACUACGUU	<pre>           AAC   U   C   U   G   G           GCC   CCAUGGU CAGACUAC UGU CA   GAG \           CGG   GGUUACA GUCCGAUG ACA GU   CUC C           AUU   C   -   U   GUAA   U </pre>
miR-C23	UAAUACUGCCUGGUAAUGAUGAC	<pre>           GGC   -   C   UAGUG           GCGGU   CAUC   UUACUGGGCAG AUUGGA   U           CGGCA   GUAG   AAUGGUCCGUC UAAUCU   C           ---   U   A   -   A   CUAGU </pre>
miR-C24	UACUCAGUAAGGCCAUUUGUUC	<pre>           U   U   U   UUC   A           UACCUUAC CAG AAGGCCAUUUGUUC UAU U           AUGGGAUG GUC UUCCGUGACAAG AUA U           U   U   UAA   A </pre>

Fig.7 (cont.)

name	sequence	structure
miR-C25	AGAGGUUAUGCGCAUGGAAAGA	<pre> U          A-          UG          C GUUCG UUUUCUUAUGC UAUACUUUU UGGAU \ CGAGG <u>AGAAGGGUACG</u> <u>AUAUGGAGAA</u> AUCUG U U          CG          - -          G </pre>
miR-C26	UGAAAUUGUUUAGGACCAUAG	<pre> C          U          G          A          C          U GGUC AGGGGUUCU GACA UUCA CAGUU UG \ CCAG <u>UCACCAGGA</u> <u>UUGU AAGU</u> GUUAA AC A A          U          A          - -          C          G </pre>
miR-C27	UUCCCCUUGUCAUCCUAUGCCUG	<pre> U          A          U          GAGAUUA UGGAC UCCCCUUGUC UCCUA <u>GCCU</u> \ ACUUG AGGAAACGG <u>AGGGU CGGA</u> \ C          A          - -          GGAGUA </pre>
miR-C28	UCCUCAUCCACCGGAGUCUG	<pre> UC          C          UCUUA CUCUTUG <u>CUCUCAUCCAC</u> <u>GGAGUCUG</u> GAGGAC <u>GAAGUGAGGUG</u> CTTUAGAC \ UC          A          A          CAACC </pre>
miR-C29	GUGAAAUUUUAGGACCAUAGA	<pre> U          C          U          G          A          C          U GCC GGUC AGGGGUUCU GACA UUCA CAGUU UG \ CGG CCAG <u>UCACCAGGA</u> <u>UUGU AAGU</u> GUUAA AC A C          A          U          A          - -          C          G </pre>
miR-C30	UGGAUAUGUAAGGAAGUGUGGG	<pre> -          C          U          AUauc CCAGG CCACAUCCUUCUUUUAU C CAUAG \ GGUUU <u>GGUGUGUGAAGGAUGUA</u> <u>G GUAUC</u> \ U          A          - -          ACGAC </pre>

Fig 7 (cont.)

name	sequence	structure
miR-C31	UACAGUAGUCUGCACAUUGGUU	AUC <u>U</u> C <u>-----</u> G GCC CCAGUGU CAGACUAC UGU UCAG A CGG <u>GGGUACA</u> <u>GUCUGAUG</u> <u>ACA</u> GGUC G <u>AUU</u> <u>C</u> - <u>UGUACAG</u> G
miR-C32	CCCGUGAACCAGAACUUGUGU a miR-10 variant	A <u>G</u> <u>C</u> <u>UG-</u> AC AUAAU <u>CCCU</u> <u>UAGAA</u> <u>CGAAUUTUGUG</u> GU C AUAAA <u>GGGG</u> <u>AUCUU</u> <u>GCUUGACAC</u> UA C A - A UGA CA
miR-C33	AACCCGUAGAUCCGAACUUGUGA A a miR-99a variant	CACA <u>A</u> <u>C</u> <u>C</u> AU ACC <u>GUAGAU</u> <u>CGA</u> <u>CUTUGUG</u> UG U GUGU UGG <u>UAUCUG</u> GUU GAAACAC AC C A A U C - GU
miR-C34	GCUUCUCCUGGCUCCUCCUC	C <u>U</u> <u>UUG</u> - GGAG AAGG AGGG GAGGG CGGGAGGAGC CGGGC G UUCC <u>UCUCC</u> <u>CUCUC</u> <u>GUCCUCUUG</u> GUUCG C - - UCG C GCGU

Fig. 7 (cont)

name	human	C. elegans	mouse	Drosophila
				fugu
				fish
let-7a-1	AC007924 chr9 AC08784 chr 17 identical precursor	num. hits in trace data, 3 families of similar precursors	colon found	midbrain nearly identical precursor
let-7a-2	AF001359 chr11			AB003659 diff. precursor
let-7a-3	AL049853 chr22 AF274345 chrX with diff. precursor			
let-7b	AL049853 chr22 AF274345 chrX with diff. precursor	nearly identical precursor	nearly ident precursor trace#48311003	EST AI481199.1 spleen = cerebellum (mammary)
let-7c	AP001667 chr21 AC007924.3 chr9 AC08784 chr17 identical	identical and diff. precursors	num. genomic hits, ident precursor/diff precursor -> EST AF614897	numerous genomic hits found
let-7d	AC007924.3 chr9 AC08784 chr17 identical	found	trace#83567042 nearly ident prec	found
let-7e	AC010755 chr19		trace#8356704 2 nearly ident Prec	found
let-7f-1	AC007924 chr9 AC007704 chr17		found	found
let-7f-2	AL592046 chrX		ident precursor genomic DNA in mmtrace 18713911	found
let-7g	precursor ident. to mouse in AC092045.2 chr3		genomic hits,no EST	found
let-7h			found in cortex,no db hit	

Fig. 7 (cont.)

precursor ident. to mouse [AL117383.19]; also AC048341.22			found, supported by EST BB6128	found	
let-7i					2L, AE003667
mir-1				found	found
mir-1b	AL449263.5 chr20 nt1-21 (22G)	U97405.1 nt 1-21 (22G)	no mouse hit (only nt1-21)		
mir-1c				found, but no db hit	
mir-1d	AL449263.5 chr20 nt1-22 (22G)			found trace hits(nt1- 23) trace#91. 523974	BF157601.1 with C23 (diff. precursor)
mir-2a-1					2L, AE003663
mir-2a-2					2L, AE003663
mir-2b-1					2L, AE003663
mir-2b-2					2R, AE003705
mir-3					
mir-4					2R, AE003705

Fig. 7 (cont.)

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-13b-1								
miR-13b-2								
miR-14	13, NC069475				found	trace#72 137197 prec sig diff		
miR-15a						trace#79 105069		
miR-15b								
	13, NC069475 interesting leukemia locus							
miR-16	3, NT_005740.6				several found	trace#7910506 g nearly ident prec, as in human		
miR-16								
miR-17	13, AL138714							
miR-18	13, AL138714							
miR-19a	13, AL138714							
miR-19b-1	13, AL138714				found	G46757 with a UGC		

Fig. 7 (cont.)

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mir-19b-2	X, AC002407							
mir-20	13, AL138714		found					
mir-21	17, AC004686	AL604063	found chr1, near ly ident precursor			found	found	
mir-22	several highly similar ESTs: AY961681 shown	cdnas from var. tissues, ide ntical precursor	AK008813 (cDNA), prec ident to human		found	found		
mir-23a	19, AC020916				found	found		
mir-23b	XM_072557.1 ch5, also human ESTs, prec nearly ident to mouse			EST AW124037 hypothal, EST AY848465 cerebellum		found, EST AY124037 hypothal, EST AY848465 cerebellum		
mir-24-1	9, AF041096		found		found, EST AY286629 (thymus); nearly ident. to mir-24-1; EST AA111466 (whole embryo)	found		
mir-24-2	19, AC020916							
mir-25	7, AC073842 second ident. copy Found in Chr7							G46757 similar precursor
mir-26a	3, AF000497					AC055818.9, tr ace #88471973 precursor diff. from human	Scaffold_ 4097 different precursor	
mir-26b	2, AC021016	found			found, trace16986 6494, slight. diff precursor			

Fig. 7 (cont.)

		found	found, but no db hit for mouse	found	found
miR-27a	19, AC020916				
miR-27b	XM_098911.1 chr9 identical precursor			found, maps to chr 13 NGSC mmtrace 44671617	
miR-28	J, AC067932				
miR-29a	7, AF017104 second ident. copy found in chr7 CLUSTER, this cluster also consvd in mouse; AC024913.32 AL015209.1 chr1-29-b and 29-c; miRNA similar to miR-13	found, AC024913.3 2	found, AC024913.3 2	AC024913.32 if precursor in EST BG312396 (retina)	AC024913.32 if precursor in EST BG312396 (retina)
miR-29b		found		found	found
miR-29c				found	found, supported by ESTs
miR-30a-s	6, M0015467 chr6	found; ESTs AL0152467.23 found, db in chr6	found; ESTs AL0152467.23 found, db in chr6	found with diff. precursor in trace #05261735	found
miR-30a-s				trace#72329251	found
miR-30b	human AF159221.6 chr8, different precursor				Scaffold 3183, diff precursor
miR-30c	ALJ6164.8 chr.6 supported by ESTs (BF594736.1)		found, but no db hit for mouse	found	found

Fig. 7 (cont.)

Fig. 7 (cont.)

nearly ident. precursor in chr8[AC021518] chr20[AL096818]	found in Z22504.1 chrV intron, diff precursor	found	most abundant in most cereb., genomic hits, but no db found	found	slightly diff precursor AC09251 chr2L
AC021518 ident chr20 AL096828.29			found, but no db found		
mir-124b					
mir-125a	Ident precursor in AC018755.3 chr 19		genomic hits trace#33021945, 48262259 and more	found	
miR-125b	AP001359.4 chr11 AP001667.1 chr21 (chr21 like mouse)		trace#18398570 5 found with A22U	found in AC006550.1 1 with diff fold	Scaffold_ 2358
miR-126	human AL117190.6 chr.14 same precursors as in mouse		mntrace#13521597 and more	found	with diff precursor AC09251 affold_32 95
miR-127	ident in AC01642.10 chr 2; diff prec in AC016943.7 chr.3		hit in trace#79514537		
miR-128	human AC018662.3 chr7		genomic hit trace#151670230	found	Scaffold_ 828, diff prec
mir-129			found, but no db hit		
mir-130			mntrace#68479278		with diff fold AC091299.2
mir-131	AC005317.2 chr 15 slight diff precursor, but AC026701.6 chr 5 ident		several trace hits, mouse AF155142	found	
mir-132	AL137038.5 chr17 prec slight diff from mouse		trace hit#86984641		

Fig. 7 (cont.)

			found	trace		
miR-133	AI391221.15 chr6 diff. precursor (ident to rat L33722.1)		found, trace 62407955		Scaffold_ 1049/prec u nearly like mouse	
miR-134	AI132209.5 chr14 similar precursor		trace16462031 1			
miR-135	AC092045.2 chr3 AC018659.35 chr12 (ident or simil to mouse)		trace1714523 5,ESTRF780995 .1 (kidn., sple en) (=chr1huma n)		Scaffold 2125 with similar precur	
miR-136	AI117190.6 chr14 ident to mouse		trace18607175 3			
miR-137	AC027691.1 chr1 ,ident to mouse nearly ident fish		trace18977454 3,EST (hypothal)X18 52436.1,ident		Scaffold_ 16244 nearly ident to mouse,man	
miR-138	AC006058.1 chr3 precursor diff			mouse EST BB228620.2		
miR-139	AP003065.2 chr11			found, but no mouse hit		
miR-140	AC026468.8 chr.16 precursor nearly ident,		several trace hits; trace11053 0393			
miR-141	AC006512.12 chr12 precursor slightli diff		AC002397 chr6		found	
miR-142s	AC004687.1 chr17 BCL1/myc translocation locus,like mouse		found	found		
miR- 142as*				several EST AI153235		found

Fig. 7 (cont.)

new	AL047829.4 chr14						found but no db hit				
miR-143	AC008681.7 chr5					found, but no db hit	found	found			
miR-144	XM_064366.1 precursor nearly ident										
miR-145	AC008681.7 chr5 GG->GA precursor nearly like mouse, see 2 positions above AC008387.7 chr5 diff precursor		found				EST AA296206 1. trace 21143909				
miR-146	AL592549.7						found EST BF163348 1. lung				
miR-147							trace#34 639321				
miR-148	AC010719.4							found, no db hit			
miR-149								trace#85 955550			
miR-150											
miR-151							trace#8845 6669				
miR-152	human chr 17 AC04477.1, nearly identical							found in colon, supported by trace#8370045; close match HGSC in chr18 (additional 14C unlikely, not supported by trace and			

Fig. 7 (cont.)

miR-153	AC006172.2 chr7 ident. precursor				found sever. mmtraces 87010874	
miR-154	AL132109.5 chr14 nearly identical precursor				found sever. mmtraces 86715639	
miR-155	human B1C RNA: AF402776.1 (has U12C) [pic-RNA]			found ; ch 16 mouse		

Fig. 7 (cont.)

name	human	mouse						zebrafish
		spleen	eye	kidney	testes	lung	thymus	
miR-C1	with different precursors in chr9 AL158075.11, chr1 AL136321.5		mouse trace #76647842		found			scaffold_1819
miR-C2	chr7 AC084864.2 similar precursor	mouse trace #88841033						scaffold_967 AL590150.2
miR-C3	chr7 AC084864.2 ident.precursor	trace #86029980						scaffold_967 AL590150.2
miR-C4	similar precursor.in chr7 AC016662.3	trace #13685665	found					
miR-C5	chr15 AC069082.9	trace #87318210					found	scaffold_3671
miR-C6	Chr22 AC005664.2 ident.precursor	chr16 AC012525.32						
miR-C7	chr1 AL512443.7 similar prec.	trace #86694935						
miR-C8			found, trace #51673384					
miR-C9			found, trace #7894803					scaffold_2210, diff. precursor
miR-C10	chrX MM222686.1 nearly ident. precursor		found, trace #61938192					
miR-C11	chr9 XM_098943.1 has C17U:prec.nearly identical to mouse		found, cDNA AI28629.1, has C17U					
miR-C12			found, trace#71 760450					scaffold_2294
miR-C13		found		found, trace #88722637				

Fig. 7 (cont.)

name	human	spleen	eye	kidney	testes	lung	thymus	skin	Drosophila	fugu	fish	zebrafish
miR-C14	chr11 AC000159.6			found, but no db hit								
miR-C15	chr16 AC026468.6 nearly ident. precursor			EST B1607377.1, several trace					scaffold_2083			
miR-C16	chr17 AC003101.1, similar precursor			Found, trace#95 55103					scaffold_246			
miR-C17	chr11 AC000159.6, chr1 AC13590.2; diff. prec.			found, trace #87796602					scaffold_152			
miR-C18				found, trace #47023788 (close to miR-16)	found	found	found					
miR-C19	chr17 AC009789.21 cloned from human cell line only			similar precursor in mouse chr11 AC01194.15					scaffold_18334			
miR-C20	chr11 AC35310.19 cloned from human cell line only											
miR-C21	chr3 AC063952.15 cloned from human cell line only											
miR-C22	chr19 AC007229.1; chr1 AL137157.7 similar precursor; cloned from human cell line only								scaffold_8399			
miR-C23					trace #72257777	found			scaffold_2210			
miR-C24									trace #69679879			
miR-C25									trace #49734566			
miR-C26	AL136001 ident. precursor								trace #11977216			

Fig. 7 (cont.)

name	human	mouse						Drosophila	Eugu	fish	zebrafish
		spleen	eye	kidney	testes	lung	thymus				
miR-C27	chr9 AL159930.12 identical Precursor		trace #91503159							scaffold_725	
miR-C28	XM_036612.4, precursor very similar									scaffold_13664	
miR-C29	chr14 AL136001.6 nearly identical precursor										
miR-C30	chr6 AL391221.15 similar precursor										
miR-C31	chr9 AC006312.8										
miR-C32								UT7364.1, intronic location Hoxd4 gene	scaffold_82		
miR-C33								trace #84780544	scaffold_15612		
miR-C34								trace# 72109322			

## SEQUENCE LISTING

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<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 8  
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21

<210> 9  
<211> 23  
<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
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Oligonucleotide

<400> 9  
catatcacaa cgatcggtcc ttt

23

<210> 10  
<211> 22

<212> DNA  
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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 10  
aaaaagaaca gccactgtga ta

22

<210> 11  
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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 11  
tggaagacta gtgattttgt tgt

23

<210> 12  
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<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 12  
gacatcttta cctgacagta tta

23

<210> 13  
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<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 13  
tcatacagct agataaccaa aga

23

<210> 14  
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<212> DNA  
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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 14  
acaaaattcgg atctacaggg t

21

<210> 15  
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<212> DNA  
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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 15  
gcaagaactc agactgtgat g

21

<210> 16  
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<212> DNA  
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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 16  
accagtacct gatgttaatac tca

23

<210> 17  
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<212> DNA  
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<220>  
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## Oligonucleotide

<400> 17  
actcgtcaaa atggctgtga ta 22

<210> 18  
<211> 21  
<212> DNA  
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<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 18  
taggagagag aaaaagactg a 21

<210> 19  
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Oligonucleotide

<400> 19  
tagcagcaca taatggtttg t 21

<210> 20  
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Oligonucleotide

<400> 20  
gccaaatattt acgtgctgct a 21

<210> 21  
<211> 22  
<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 21

tacaagtgcc ttcactgcag ta

22

<210> 22

<211> 22

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 22

tatctgcact agatgcacct ta

22

<210> 23

<211> 23

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 23

tcagtttgc atagatttgc aca

23

<210> 24

<211> 22

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 24

tacctgcact ataaggactt ta

22

<210> 25  
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Oligonucleotide

<400> 25  
tcaacatcaag tctgataagg ta

22

<210> 26  
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Oligonucleotide

<400> 26  
acagttcttc aactggcaggc tt

22

<210> 27  
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Oligonucleotide

<400> 27  
ggaaatccct ggcaatgtga t

21

<210> 28  
<211> 22  
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Oligonucleotide

<400> 28

ctgttcctgc tgaactgagc ca

22

<210> 29

<211> 22

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:

Oligonucleotide

<400> 29

tcagaccgag acaagtgc aa tg

22

<210> 30

<211> 22

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:

Oligonucleotide

<400> 30

agcctatcct ggattacttg aa

22

<210> 31

<211> 22

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:

Oligonucleotide

<400> 31

agcggaaacctt agccactgtg aa

22

<210> 32

<211> 22

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 32

ctcaatagac tgtgagctcc tt

22

<210> 33

<211> 22

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 33

aaccgatttc agatggtgct ag

22

<210> 34

<211> 22

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 34

gctgcaaaca tccgactgaa ag

22

<210> 35

<211> 22

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 35

cagctatgcc agcatcttgc ct

22

<210> 36  
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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 36  
gcaacttagt aatgtgcaat a

21

<210> 37  
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<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 37  
tgcaatgcaa ctacaatgca cc

22

<210> 38  
<211> 22  
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<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 38  
ctccatactt ctttacattc ca

22

<210> 39  
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<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 39  
gctgagtgta ggatgttac a

21

<210> 40  
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<212> DNA  
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<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 40  
gcttccagtc gaggatgtt aca

23

<210> 41  
<211> 22  
<212> DNA  
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<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 41  
cgcaagggtcg gttctacggg tg

22

<210> 42  
<211> 20  
<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 42  
tcagttatca cagtactgta

20

<210> 43  
<211> 23  
<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt;

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

&lt;400&gt; 43

acaaacacca ttgtcacact cca

23

&lt;210&gt; 44

&lt;211&gt; 21

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt;

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

&lt;400&gt; 44

tggcattcac cgcgtgcctt a

21

&lt;210&gt; 45

&lt;211&gt; 23

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt;

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

&lt;400&gt; 45

cacaggttaa agggtctcag gga

23

&lt;210&gt; 46

&lt;211&gt; 22

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt;

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

&lt;400&gt; 46

tcacaagtta gggtctcagg ga

22

&lt;210&gt; 47

<211> 22  
<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 47  
agccaaagctc agacggatcc ga

22

<210> 48  
<211> 22  
<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 48  
aaaagagacc gtttcactct ga

22

<210> 49  
<211> 21  
<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 49  
gcaagccccag accgaaaaaaaa g

21

<210> 50  
<211> 20  
<212> DNA  
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<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 50

gcccttttaa cattgcactc

20

<210> 51  
<211> 21  
<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 51  
actttcggtt atcttagcttt a

21

<210> 52  
<211> 23  
<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 52  
acgaccatgg ctgttagactg tta

23

<210> 53  
<211> 22  
<212> DNA  
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<220>  
<223> Description of Combined DNA/RNA Molecule:  
Oligonucleotide

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 53  
tgagctacag tgcttcatct ca

22

<210> 54  
<211> 18

<212> DNA  
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<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 54  
uuuaaccgcg aattccag

18

<210> 55  
<211> 18  
<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 55  
acggaattcc tcactaaa

18

<210> 56  
<211> 23  
<212> DNA  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 56  
cacaggttaa agggtctcag gga

23

<210> 57  
<211> 24  
<212> DNA  
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<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:  
Oligonucleotide

<400> 57  
cagccaacgg aattcctcac taaa

24

<210> 58  
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<400> 58  
uggaauguaa agaaguauugg ag

22

<210> 59  
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<212> RNA  
<213> *D. melanogaster*

<400> 59  
uaucacagcc agcuuuugaug agc

23

<210> 60  
<211> 23  
<212> RNA  
<213> *D. melanogaster*

<400> 60  
uaucacagcc agcuuuugagg agc

23

<210> 61  
<211> 22  
<212> RNA  
<213> *D. melanogaster*

<400> 61  
ucacuggggca aagugugucu ca

22

<210> 62  
<211> 21  
<212> RNA  
<213> *D. melanogaster*

<400> 62  
auaaagcuag acaacccauug a

21

<210> 63

<211> 23  
<212> RNA  
<213> D. melanogaster

<400> 63  
aaaggaacga ucguugugau aug

23

<210> 64  
<211> 22  
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<213> D. melanogaster

<400> 64  
uaucacagug gcuguucuuu uu

22

<210> 65  
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<212> RNA  
<213> D. melanogaster

<400> 65  
uggaagacua gugauuuugu ugu

23

<210> 66  
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<213> D. melanogaster

<400> 66  
uaauacuguc agguaaagau guc

23

<210> 67  
<211> 23  
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<400> 67  
ucuuugguua ucuagcugua uga

23

<210> 68  
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<400> 68  
accuguaga uccgaaauuug u 21

<210> 69  
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<400> 69  
caucacaguc ugaguucuug c 21

<210> 70  
<211> 23  
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<400> 70  
ugaguauuac aucagguacu ggu 23

<210> 71  
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<400> 71  
uaucacagcc auuuugacga gu 22

<210> 72  
<211> 22  
<212> RNA  
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<400> 72  
uaucacagcc auuuugauga gu 22

<210> 73  
<211> 21  
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<213> D. melanogaster

<400> 73  
ucagucuuuu ucucucuccu a 21

<210> 74  
<211> 22  
<212> RNA  
<213> D. melanogaster

<400> 74  
ugagguagua gguuguaauag uu

22

<210> 75  
<211> 22  
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<400> 75  
ugagguagua gguuguaauag uu

22

<210> 76  
<211> 22  
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<400> 76  
ugagguagua gguugugugg uu

22

<210> 77  
<211> 22  
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<213> Human

<400> 77  
ugagguagua gguuguaugg uu

22

<210> 78  
<211> 21  
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<400> 78  
agagguagua gguugcauag u

21

<210> 79

<211> 21  
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<400> 79  
ugagguagga gguuguauag u

21

<210> 80  
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<400> 80  
ugagguagua gauuguauag uu

22

<210> 81  
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<213> Human

<400> 81  
uagcagcaca uaaugguuug ug

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<210> 82  
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<400> 82  
uagcagcacg uaaaauauugg cg

22

<210> 83  
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<400> 83  
acugcaguga aggcacuugu

20

<210> 84  
<211> 22  
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<213> Human

<400> 84  
uaaggugcau cuagugcaga ua

22

<210> 85  
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<400> 85  
ugugcaaauc uaugcaaaac uga

23

<210> 86  
<211> 23  
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<400> 86  
ugugcaaauc caugcaaaac uga

23

<210> 87  
<211> 22  
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<400> 87  
uaaagugcuu auagugcagg ua

22

<210> 88  
<211> 22  
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<400> 88  
uagcuaauca gacuguauguu ga

22

<210> 89  
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<400> 89  
aagcugccag uugaagaacu gu

22

<210> 90  
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<400> 90  
aucacauugc caggauuuc c

21

<210> 91  
<211> 22  
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<400> 91  
uggcucaguu cagcaggaac ag

22

<210> 92  
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<400> 92  
cauugcacuu gucucggucu ga

22

<210> 93  
<211> 22  
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<400> 93  
uucaaguaau ccaggauagg cu

22

<210> 94  
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<400> 94  
uucaaguaau ucaggauagg uu

22

<210> 95

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<400> 95  
uucacagugg cuaaguuccg cu

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<210> 96  
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<400> 96  
aaggagcuca cagucuauug ag

22

<210> 97  
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<400> 97  
cuagcaccau cugaaauccg uu

22

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<400> 98  
cuuucagucg gauguuugca gc

22

<210> 99  
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<400> 99  
ggcaagaaugc uggcauagcu g

21

<210> 100  
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<400> 100  
uauugcacau uacuaaguug c

21

<210> 101  
<211> 19  
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<400> 101  
gugcauugua guugcauug

19

<210> 102  
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<400> 102  
uggaauguaa agaaguaagg ag

22

<210> 103  
<211> 23  
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<400> 103  
uggaagacua gugauuuuugu ugu

23

<210> 104  
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<400> 104  
ucuuugguaa ucuagcugua uga

23

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<400> 105  
acccuguaga uccgaauuug u

21

<210> 106  
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<400> 106

ugagguagua gguuguaauag uu

22

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ugagguagua gguugugugg uu

22

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ugagguagua gguuguaugg uu

22

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agagguagua gguugcauag u

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ugagguagga gguuguaauag u

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22

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22

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<400> 113  
ugagguagua guguguacag uu

22

<210> 114  
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ugagguagua guuugugcu

19

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uggaauguaa agaaguaugu aa

22

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uggaauguua agaaguau gu ac 22

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uggaauguua agaaguau gu auu 23

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ucuuugguuua ucuagcugua uga 23

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uagcagcaca uaaugguuug ug 22

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uagcagcaca ucaugguuua ca 22

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uagcagcaca uaaauauugg cg 22

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<400> 122  
uaaggugcau cuagugcaga ua

22

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<400> 123  
ugugcaaauc caugcaaaac uga

23

<210> 124  
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<400> 124  
uaaagugcuu auagugcagg uag

23

<210> 125  
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<400> 125  
uagcuuauc aacugaauguu ga

22

<210> 126  
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<400> 126  
aagcugccag uugaagaacu gu

22

<210> 127

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<400> 127  
aucacauugc caggauuuc c

21

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<400> 128  
aucacauugc caggauuac cac

23

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<400> 129  
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22

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<400> 130  
uucaāguau ccaggauagg cu

22

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uucaaguau ucaggauagg uu

22

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uucacagugg cuaaguuccg cu 22

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uucacagugg cuaaguucug 20

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cuagcaccau cugaaaucgg uu 22

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uagcaccauu ugaaaucagu guu 23

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<400> 136  
uagcaccauu ugaaaucgggu ua 22

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uguaaacau cugcacugga agc 23

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cuuucagucg gauguuugca gc

22

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uguaaacauc cuacacucag c

21

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<400> 140  
uguaaacauc cuacacucuc agc

23

<210> 141  
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<400> 141  
uguaaacauc cccgacugga ag

22

<210> 142  
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